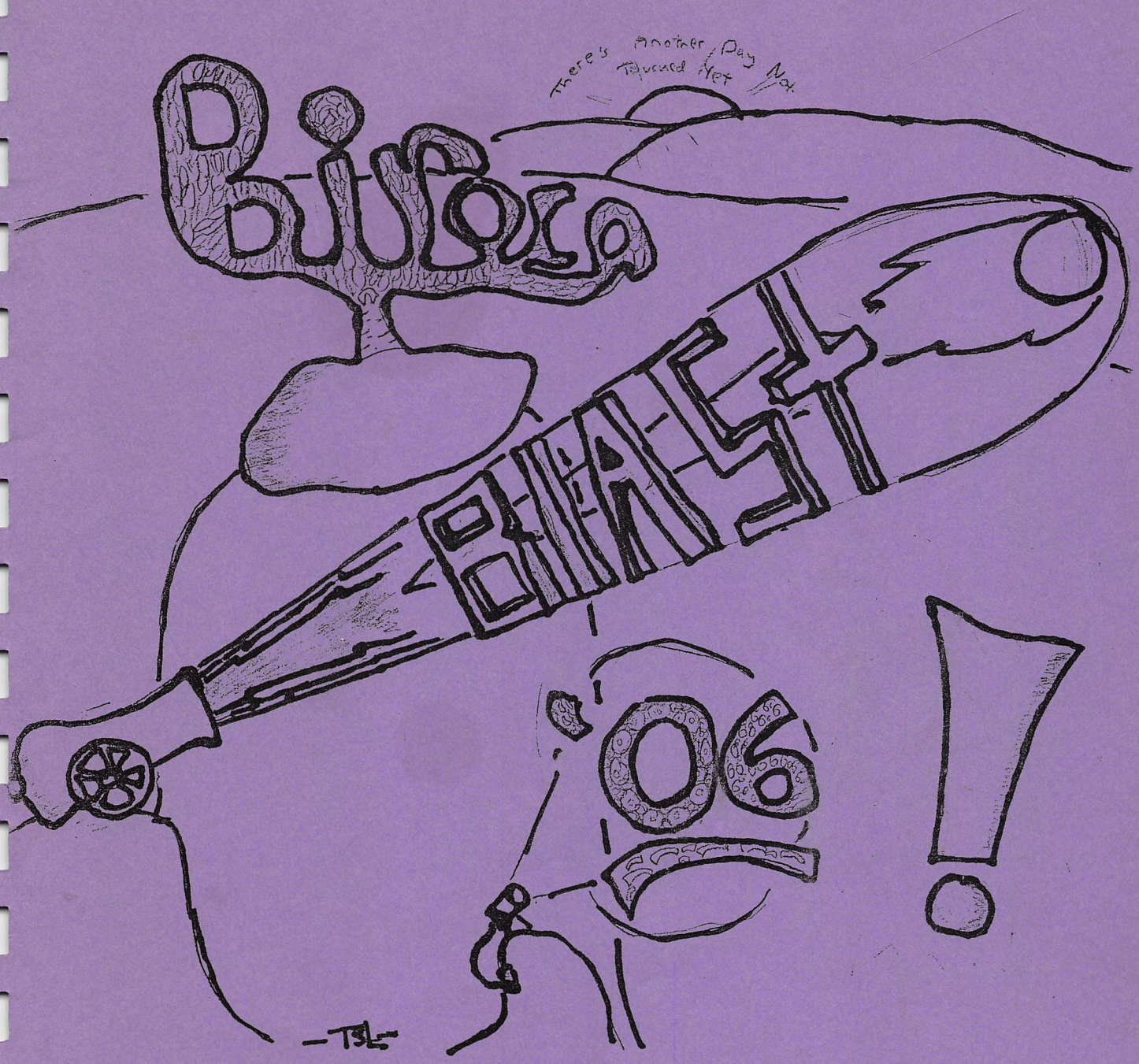

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Dedication 2006

The staff of the 2006 Biroca Blast decided after careful deliberation to dedicate this year's edition to a man who has witnessed six decades of Birch Rock history and continues to give back to the new generations of campers...

Mike Apicelli
A.k.a. "Don Miguel"

Don Miguel's presence has graced this fine establishment since 1950 when he started as a camper. He has spent his summers with Birch Rock legends such as Chief and Onie Brewster, Buck and Jean Hard, Albert and Pete Haas, creating a bridge between a modern day Rock and the days of old. He rose through the ranks from camper to counselor to Birch Rock guru. Don Miguel's charisma, humor and wisdom make his frequent visits from the West Coast a highlight for many campers. While on campus, Don Miguel offers a variety of special activities from golfing contests to the Fishing Derby, and can even be seen leading a trip or two. He always makes an effort to get to know as many campers as possible, whether they be Hiltonites or Senior Campers, and loves to regale anyone willing to listen with his hilarious and insightful stories from the Golden Age of Birch Rock Camp. His infectious good nature and dedication make camp a brighter place, and in our eyes, Mike Apicelli is a true gentleman has cemented his position along with the aforementioned as a Birch Rock legend.

Don Miguel, thanks for everything.

A View from The Top

By Mike Mattson, Camp Director

What a crazy summer it's been! The weather has been a roller coaster of humidity, thunderstorms, heat and cold, but we marched right through it. We were able to avoid running a rainy day program for most of the summer and kept our campers as active as possible.

To the kids I say, way to go! You guys were all a solid crew of kids, willing to try new things, and strive to be successful in every element of our program. I'm always amazed by all the cool new campers that join our ranks and hope that many of you decide to come back for many more summers to come. The senior campers were all-stars this summer and will no doubt form up into an elite crew of CITs next summer.

The summer is defined by our staff. A happy, healthy staff makes for a happy, healthy program. This summer our staff seemed to offer up a little more zaniness and outrageous announcements which always gives the place a little zest. The staff bond will always be strong, and although we had a few hiccups along the way, mostly due to illness and exhaustion, we all came together in the end and rallied to the finish.

Thank you to everyone in the community for all their help, enthusiasm, and exciting energy in making this summer another great season at the Rock.

Kiko thanks you for playing fetch!

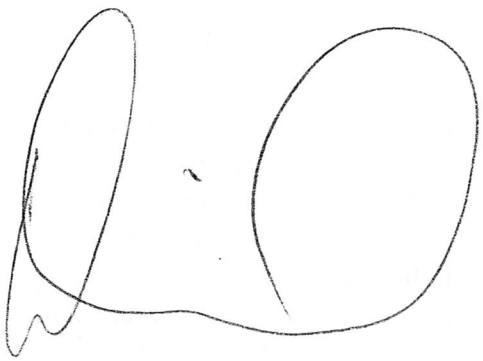
HEAD COUNSELOR REPORT

AKA: A VIEW FROM THE MIDDLE
BY: DOUGLAS MILLER

This was another great summer at The Rock! We had a great group of boys here this summer, both old and new. The theme of the first session was definitely: "Is it going to rain or not?" Whereas the theme of the second session was: "Can you stand the heat and humidity?" We managed to survive both sessions with soaring colors. Surprisingly the rain usually only came in the late afternoon all season so we ran at most three rainy day schedules and none lasted all day. We dealt with all the heat and humidity by moving a lot of the field activities to the waterfront.

I must say that I have been impressed with the "Bedi Master" skills that have been appearing this summer. A large majority of the boys were making their beds incredibly well and many days it was very hard to pick a best bed from all of the possible candidates. For the first session, the best bed overall would have to be Robert Donahue. For the second session, the best bed overall would be: Gabe Dreyer. Way to go to both of you!

I've had a great summer and I owe it all to the great staff and campers who make this place so much fun. Thank you all for the good times that we have had this year. I hope that everyone returns for many more years to come!



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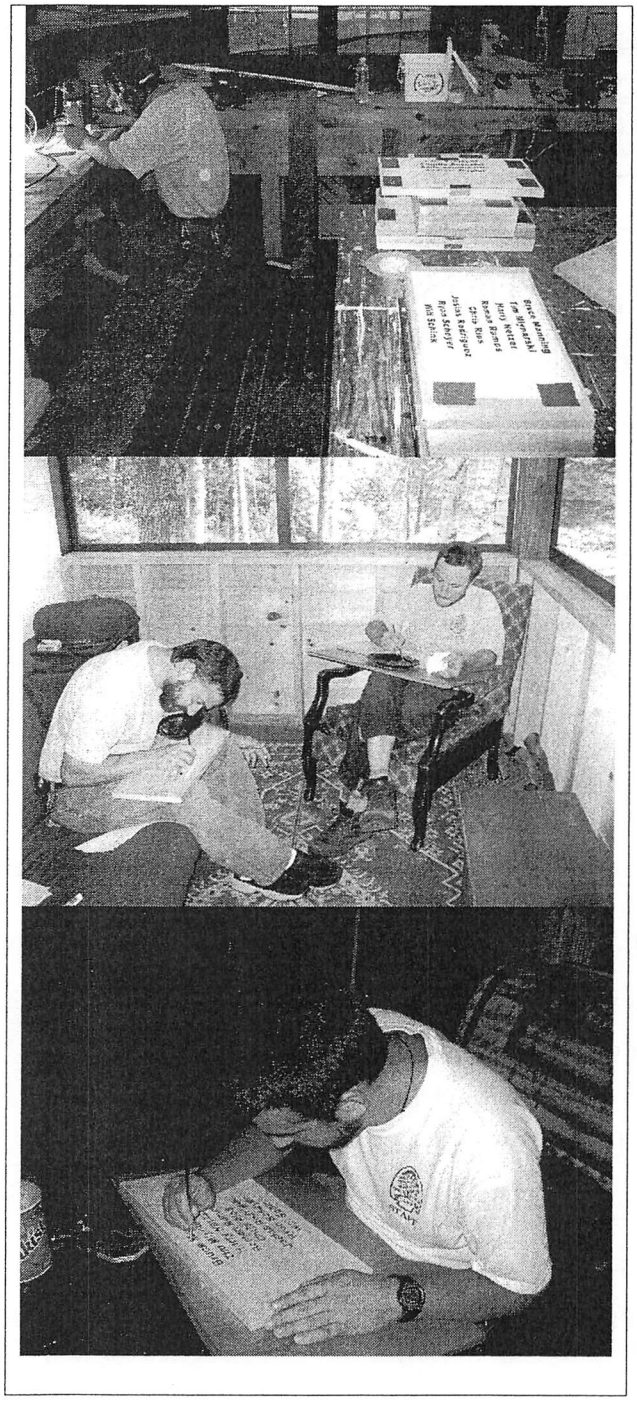
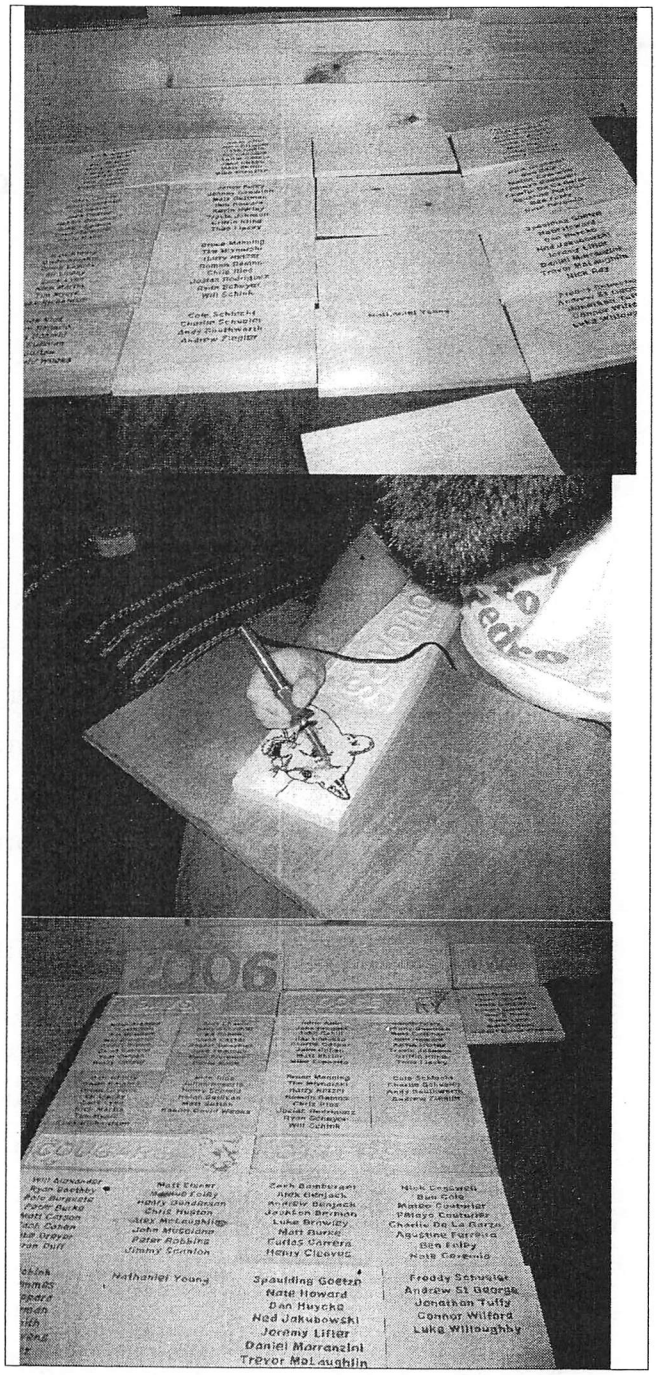




Plaque Making 2006

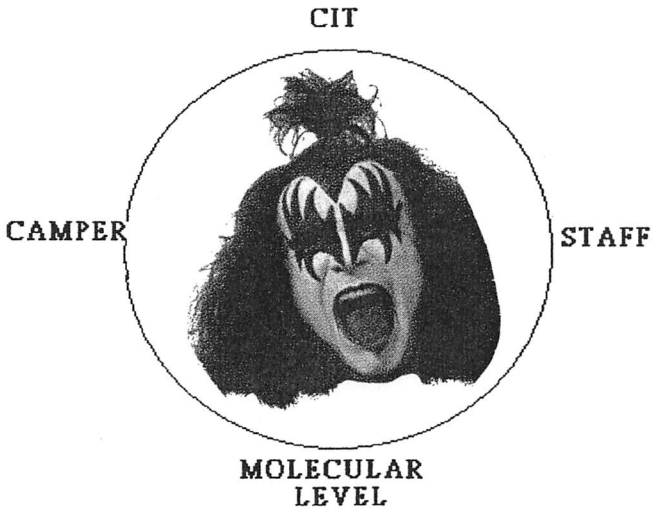
I never really had any idea how much time is spent working on the plaques each summer until I was a part of the process. It is amazing that Chief did it on his own for so many summers. After Chief passed away the camp had the campers carve their own plaques for a little more than 10 summers before we decided to have individual staff members take care of it. Now the camp is twice as big as it was in the Chief era, and it takes many hands to lighten the load and accelerate the process. We all love seeing our names on the wall and understand the importance of it, but many have no idea the time spent tackling such a noble task. Here's to all those great Birch Rockers in history who helped to carry on this remarkable tradition started by the camp's founder in 1926.

4

CIT Report 2006- EXTREME!

The CITs this year were pretty hardcore and by hardcore- I mean in love with each other. Coming off a collectively strong senior camper year we found it pretty easy to move into the ranks and face our challenges. Led by Ryan "Ryno" Massey we found the meanings to many new words and many new concepts. P.Jenks wrote a skit about the staff secretly being superheroes this year after lights out. As CITs we felt that we have been learning how to fly. Note the diagram below.

THE CIRCLE OF BRC LIFE!



This year has taught us the following things

- Everyday is The Day
- BRC Values are truly livable
- Specific activities
- The power of enthusiasm
- The brilliance of the Staff

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR A FANTASTIC YEAR. YOU HAVE TAUGHT US A LOT!

Signing off,

Samuel "Letenderheart" Deeran

Chris "Lifeguard" McElroen

Alasdair "Volleyball" Thornton

Walter "Bio-Freeze" Roland

Andrew "Boo-Boo Beach" Bowden

Ryan "BM" McElroen

Peter "Staring Contest" Neilson

Sean "CIT" O' Toole

Are You Ready ?

6

The Results of Extensive Studies Performed on the Unique Cabins at Birch Rock Camp During the Penultimate Session of the 2006 Season

7

Hilton A
Cabin Report

Carlos de la Garza is from Mexico. He likes Lacrosse, sailing, and Campcraft. Trevor McLaughlin is from New Jersey. He likes lacrosse and Campcraft. Carlos Carrero Carrello is from Mexico. He likes archery, comp craft, tennis, and soccer. Alex Benjack is from Virginia. He likes nature. The CIT in Hilton A was Boo-Boo (Andrew Bowden). He likes girls. The counselor, Matt Clifford, likes to kayak, make beds, and play games.

Hilton B
Cabin Report

This year we had Henry Cleaves, Augustine Ferreira, Ben Cole, and Pelayo Couturier in Hilton B. Henry was a good friend, honest and very responsible. Ben was obedient, friendly and was a very, very good reader (so was Henry). Agustin was very excited, always ready for anything, was very cheerful and very friendly. Pelayo was very cool, he was a good friend, and he was very helpful.

Cabin 1
Cabin Report

Andrew Benjack, from Virginia liked to wind surfing. Ben Folley, from Maine, liked basketball. Daniel Marranzini, from the Dominican Republic liked windsurfing and canoeing. Nate Geremia from Massachusetts liked Campcraft, soccer, and canoeing. Colin McMahon is the counselor. He's from Massachusetts. He teaches art. We all had a great time with him.

WHAT'S NEW

Cabin 2
Cabin Report

In our cabin are Matt, Ned, Jeremy and Mateo. Matt's favorite activities are basketball, baseball, Campcraft, archery and swimming. His favorite foods are pizza, pasta and pancakes. Ned's favorite activities are basketball, baseball, Campcraft and swimming. His favorite food is stuffed shells. Jeremy's favorite activities are canoeing, nature and tennis. Mateo's favorite activities are soccer, sailing, Campcraft and swimming. His favorite foods are pizza, salad and hot dogs.

One Scoop or Two?

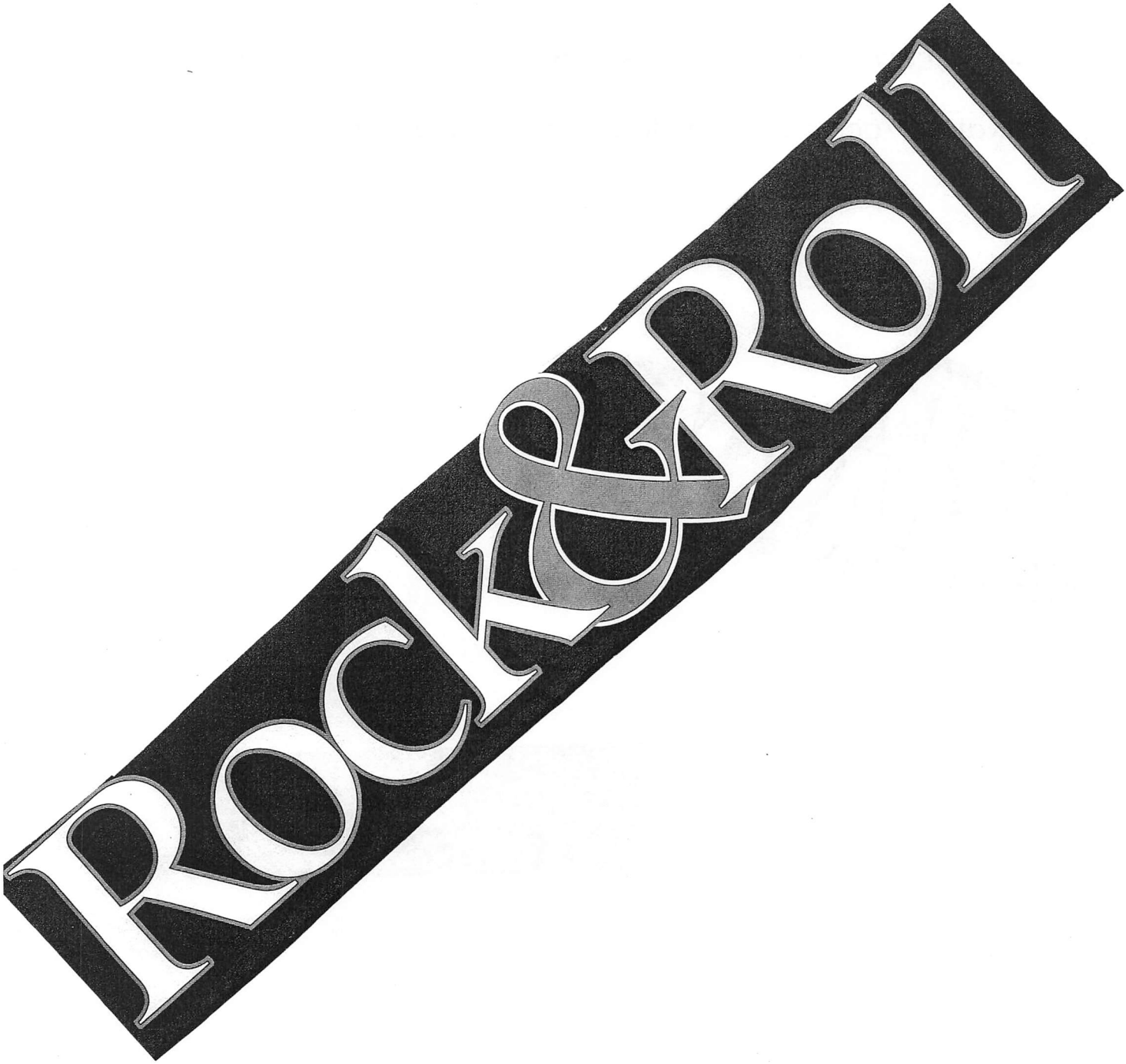
OFFENSE

Cabin 3
Cabin Report

In our fantastic cabin, Nick Musciano is the counselor. Matt Carson, Jackson Berman, Freddy Schueler and Zach Cohen are the campers. Nick teaches basketball. Matt's favorite activities are Nature, Art and Library. Jackson's are archery, Campcraft and kayaking. Freddy's are Campcraft, Soccer and Nature. Zach's are basketball, archery and Campcraft.

Cabin 4
Cabin Report

Curtis Whiting is from Brooklyn, New York. He likes mountain biking. JD Schink is from Stanford, Connecticut. He likes soccer. Polo Burguente is from Mexico City, Mexico. He likes campcraft, library and archery. Sam Sherman is from Cape Elizabeth, Maine. He likes windsurfing and archery.



Cabin 5
Cabin Report

This year in cabin five included Markus Foley, Henry Gunderson, Matt Eisner and John Musciano. The counselors were Sebby Weeks and Sam Deeran. Markus's favorite activity is Mountain Biking. Henry's favorite activities are Archery, Nature and Soccer. Matt's favorite activities are Archery and Campcraft. John's favorite activities are all water front activities.

STAR

SIZZLING

Cabin 6
Cabin Report

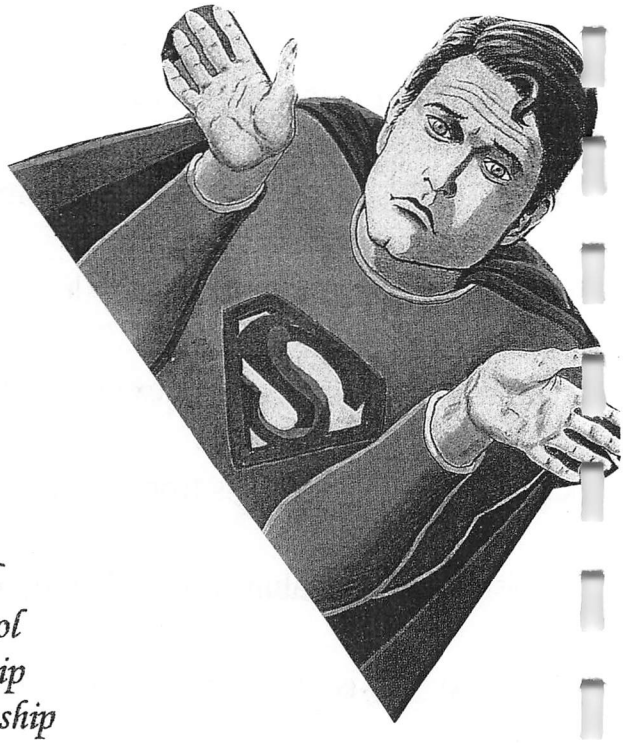
This year in cabin 6 we had a great time. Our exciting cabin consisted of Chris Huston, Peter Robbins, Alex McLaughlin and Ryan Boothby. We had exciting games of Barharboropoly and Palace. It was great and we all became close together. Chris Huston this year enjoyed spending time with friends. He also had fun being a part of baseball. Peter Robbins favorite activities were windsurfing, lacrosse and archery. This year was better than the last. We can't wait till next year. OOOH YEA!!! Alex McLaughlin had an awesome first session. His favorite activities this session were Campcraft and mountain biking. He had a good time with his friends and coaches and he is looking forward to a great second session. Ryan Boothby has had a good first session. His favorite activities were sailing, Campcraft, and archery. He has had a lot of fun with his cabin mates. He can't wait until next year.

Revenge of The Nerds

Cabin 7
Cabin Report

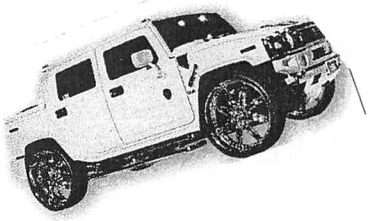
Cabin 7 is the farthest cabin from the lodge. It' s made up of four campers: Peter Burke, Will Alexander, Ben Semmes, and Kellen Smith. Peter Burke lives in Naples, Florida, and enjoys Mt. Biking, sailing and Campcraft. Kellen Smith is from Scarborough, Maine. He enjoys basketball, baseball, and sailing. Will Alexander is from Cape Elizabeth. He enjoys lax, swimming, and kayaking. Ben Semmes is from South Portland, Maine. He enjoys lax, mountain biking and windsurfing. The cabin is controlled by Walter Roland and Pearson Jenks. We had a great year and hope next year is just as good if not better.

Cabin 8
Cabin Report



We are cabin 8
We are so great
We have too much fun
We seem loud to everyone

Carl Finnson is our head
He makes us go to bed
Chris is our CIT
He fits in nicely



Gabe & Theo are real cool
They even like to go to school
Steven 'n Jackson are real hip
They're the ones that run this ship

"Black Betty" is our cabin song
We used to sing it all night long
Whenever Carl turned it on
We danced to the music, ROCK ON!

Eagle's Nest
Cabin Report

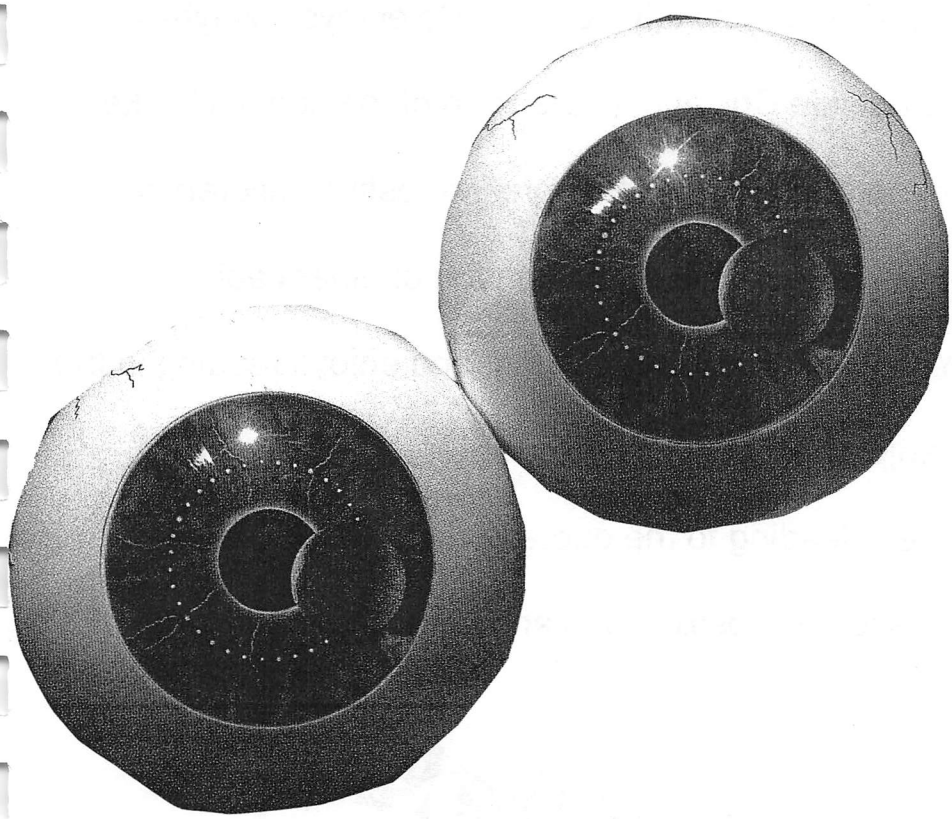
In our cabin during the second session, the counselors were Matt Downs and Charlie Knights. The campers were Charlie, from Massachusetts, who liked soccer, Will, from Connecticut, who liked art, Jay, from Maine, who liked tennis, Andy, from New Hampshire, liked windsurfing, Tim, from Illinois, liked archery, Jake, from Massachusetts, liked sailing, Ryan, from New Hampshire, liked Campcraft, and Jamie, from Maine, liked archery. Eagle's Nest second session provided a plethora of positive and negative interactions that affected our complex relationships due to the fact that we all inhabited the same 200 square feet for 3 ½ weeks. Overall, this session was an adventure.

Buzzard's Roost
Cabin Report

A close friend once told me that I could do anything if I set my mind to it. He also told me that the highest setting on most toasters is likely to burn you toast, so it is generally a good rule of thumb to set your toaster a notch or two below the maximum power if you like your toast particularly well-done. I'm not quite sure how any of this applies, but I figured it would be an excellent way to introduce the 1st Session Buzzard's Roost '06 cabin. The two guys who pretended to be in charge of us were Keith Arnold and Mike "Nordy" Nordblom. Mike is going gray; so don't make fun of him. Reports vary, but we're pretty sure he was brought up by a horde of angry baboons. Keith takes advantage of his most powerful weapon whenever we get out of line: his imposing brow. Andrew Zeigler from Minnesota enjoys playing poker and soccer when he's not beating the snot out of Nordy. You can find Ben Howard of Maine at Sailing, water-ninja, camp craft, and archery. Kicking senior citizens in the shin is a favorite pastime of New York's Harry Netzer. Besides that, he can usually be found at camp craft and nature. If he's not pillaging small Norwegian fishing villages, Chris Rios of Florida like to play lacrosse, swim, and sail. Jake Cohen from Connecticut will one day have balls, poems, and disturbing "dear Abby" letters written about him. Until that day, you will see him sailing, windsurfing, and arching. Adric 'bandana' Allie is from Maine and enjoys throwing water balloons full of syrup and rat poison at pedestrians from a 7th story balcony. He also like archery, camp craft, and rest periods. Roman Ramos of the Dominican Republic is a huge Journey fan and also likes archery, windsurfing, and sailing. Josias Rodriguez is from New York and once one a prize for keeping his voice below 94 decibels. He likes baseball and swimming.

Owl's Perch
Cabin Report

In Owl's Perch first session, our awesome counselors were Dan "Danol" Letovstky, and Mark "The Weaz" Sutherland. The campers were Tom Carson, Noah Aronson, Robert David Weeks (R.D.), Andy Churchill, Tuck Richardson, David Kane, Alex Chalin, Will Brewster, and Matt Kfoury. Tom enjoyed tennis and sailing. Noah liked tennis and basketball. R.D. liked lacrosse. Andy enjoyed basketball and windsurfing. Tuck liked tennis and baseball. David enjoyed sailing. Alex enjoyed playing guitar and windsurfing. Matt enjoyed baseball and tennis. Tom liked soccer and library. This is our cabin, and it rocked.



"The only way we're going to improve is if we actually go out and get better."

Pete's Palace
Cabin Report

First session in Pete's Palace was the craziest experience ever, and that's putting it lightly. The eight campers who braved the 3 ½ weeks of first session were truly amazing people. Nick Rios (from Miami) is a unique fellow who could easily throw anyone in his cabin from Pete's Palace to Lake McWain with his superman-like strength. Ed Cohen, who hails from Ridgewood, NJ, is suspected by his cabin mates to be a hobbit as a result of his extremely hairy feet and abnormally large hands. Eli Lipsky, an avid book reader, comes from Brooklyn, NYC. Mick Martin, from Cape Elizabeth ME, is good at shining flashlights in people's eyes, trying to figure out what everyone is talking about, and stating the annoyingly obvious. He enjoys volleyball. Robert Donahue, from somewhere outside Chicago, is the Prep of the cabin. He likes archery and tennis. Julian Rosario, perhaps one of the more interesting children in Pete's, can usually be found carving with his knife or making fun of other cabin members. Zach Lynn, another NY resident, has no emotions, and enjoys reading in the library. Matt Sutton, from Florida, enjoys art, volleyball, and library. He is always missing somewhere other than Pete's, leading to the quote of the session being "Where's Matt?" Overall, Pete's Palace first session was an interesting place to be at The Rock.

Miami Without the Pastels

A Collection of Intellectual Ponderings on the Outdoor Adventures During the First Session

Hilton Trip Report
Crooked River

In this 2006 season, Hilton went to the Crooked River for a trip. We drove for about ten minutes and found ourselves at our destination. We started by setting up camp, and we were really bored Pat said we could go swimming in the rapids. Henry discovered a big slippery slide. After that we had dinner and went to sleep. The next day we packed up and headed back to camp. It was great.

Cabin 1 and 2 Trip Report
Dartmouth Grant Trip

We got in the van and started our hour and a half drive to Dartmouth Grant. We got there and saw some magnificent sights like Sam's Lookout, hand on the rock, an osprey's nest and some rapids. Once we got close we saw a moose, followed by a deer. Once we got to the cabin we fixed dinner. After that we saw a rabbit named Mr. Fuzzums. Then we made s'mores, walked up 8-10 miles and returned.

GO FETCH!

Summer

Cabin 3 and 4 Trip Report
Doublehead Mountain

We went to Doublehead Mountain. Unfortunately, we only got to one of the mountains because our reservations for the cabin at the top were messed up. Because of those misfortunes, we had to hike back down the mountain, hop in the van and then go to a path that lead to a shelter. We all liked seeing the good views and hiking in the middle of the night. Even though things didn't go as planned, a fun time was had by all.

Cabin 5 and 6 Trip Report
Andrisgogan River

Dear Mom and Dad,

I just got back from a trip. It was fun. It was a canoeing trip on the Andrisgogan River. We started in West Bethel and ended 24 miles west of it. Chris, Alex, John, Peter, Markus, Henry, Ryan and Matt all chose partners for the 10 mile canoe on the first day. When we got to the campsite, I was happy to see there was running water and a really noisy road with trucks going by. For dinner we had a delicious dinner of red beans and rice, followed by great s'mores. The next day we ventured out on an extensive twelve miles. A bit over halfway there was then and lightning, so we had to squat down in the woods. After about an hour of that, we were ready to venture on and prepare for a hard paddle for the rest of the way. We unexpectedly arrived at the motel that contained the campsite. After a short walk we got to the area when it started to rain. We toughed it out and set up our tents. After a while we ate dinner and ate up 32 smores. De-licious. After a refreshing sleep, we easily completed it in about a mile and a half. Our hero, Don, didn't let us down and was ready to pick us up. A good time was had by all.

explore

Cabin 7 and 8 Trip Report
Mt. Moriah

Day one: We started out in Gorham, NH, after severe delays due to a prescription mishap. The trail is steady and steep, but no one was disheartened. After several hours, we reached a point we believed to be the summit. From there we *supposedly* went down to the campsite. We never reached it, so we slept on the trial.

Day two: We woke up bright and early to head out to the shelter. On the way, we summated Mt. Moriah. Stumbling up and down steep rock faces, we finally arrived at the campsite. An amazing view and a beautiful brook made this place very relaxing and comfortable. We cooked our "breakfast" (pasta), and took a nap.

Day three: We left the campsite at around nine thirty. The hike was pretty simple. We hiked to Rt. 16. The hike generally held a high morale. Near the end we found a perfect swimming hole and went swimming. After that, we reached the road with no stops and went back to camp. A good time was had by all.

Eagle's Nest Trip Report
Magelleoway River

Eagle's nest drove down to Magelleoway River with a great trip leader, Pat. We stopped for the night at the Dartmouth Grant and stayed in a really nice cabin. Pat, a wonderful cook, made couscous. The next day we went back to the river and on the way to Lake Umbagog, we saw a moose. We went home and it was a really good time with an especially great trip leader.

We put excitement where it belongs.

Buzzard's Roost Trip Report
Saddleback Mountain

On the way to Saddleback Mountain, the car sprouted wings. We flew down to Lewes, Delaware. After we realized there was nothing to do there, we flew to Reykjavik. After fighting off some radioactive Muppets with Sock-em-Boppers, we rode our unicorns to a magical place full of iron-age cooking utensils. Because the door was locked, we stayed outside and watched every episode of That 80's Show. Then we decided to go to Hollywood and shave the eyebrows of everyone who was involved with allowing that show to see the light of day. Once we satisfied that urge, all of us piled into one tricycle and rode back to camp. Honestly, that's not how our trip went - the events cannot be summed up in words or numbers. However, there were some similarities between this version and what really happened. To name a few: it *was* rugged, intense and difficult, it *did* allow us to come back stronger and test our character and it *did* have radioactive Muppets.

REJECTED

Fever

Owl's Perch Trip Report
Moose River

On our trip, we went to a place called "Moose River". We didn't see any moose, but we saw a lot of mosquitoes. We don't really like them much, but they sure like us. They are not so nice, but we hung out with them for four days anyway. By the way, it was a canoeing trip. It was pretty cool. It was also pretty wet. Our favorite part was the day it rained a little bit, because it didn't rain as hard as the other days. The food was really good, especially after a hard day of paddling. Sometimes our stuff was a little bit wet but every night we had a big, warm fire to dry off by. It ended up being a fun trip, and we made it a little bit ahead of schedule, even with a few lightning drills.

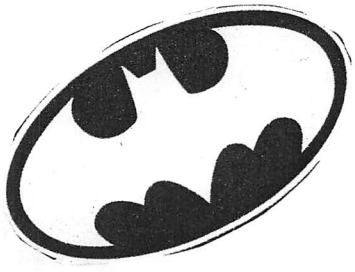
Pete's Palace Trip Report
Presidential Range

Pete's Palace went on a trip to the Presidential Mountains in New Hampshire. Paul Koepke and Ross Schlect led the trip. The first day we did a 4 mile warm up hike to Carter Notch hut. On the hike back, we stopped at a dam and went swimming. The water was cold. The next day, we left base camp in the van, heading for Mt. Washington. We stopped at the Visitor's Center to check the weather and it looked okay to climb, so we started the ascent. We got about a mile up, but it started to thunder, so we went back to the Visitor's Center and waited. When the weather finally cleared up, we started over again. The trail up Tuckerman's Ravine was really cool. We had to climb rocks and even saw snow. At the top, we wrote letters and sent them from the post office. The trip down was windy and rainy and we got back to camp just before dark. The next day we took the trail up to Mt. Madison. We had planned to do Mt. Adams and Mt. Jefferson, but the weather turned bad so we headed down. When we reached the campsite, it was pouring and we were tired, so we quickly went to bed. The next morning was sunny, so we ate our dinner from the night before and headed back to the Rock.

The Results of Extensive Studies Performed on the Unique Cabins at Birch Rock Camp During the Ultimate Session of the 2006 Season

Hilton A
Cabin Report

Hilton A was comprised of three prospective young campers, counselor Matt Clifford, and CIT Andrew Bowden. Nate "Neutron" Howard's favorite activities were Campcraft, art, archery, and nature. Neutron Nate is from Scarborough, Maine. His favorite thing to do in the cabin was to play with his cabin mates. Jonathan "Tough Guy" Tuffy's favorite activities were windsurfing, baseball, archery, art, and lacrosse. His favorite evening activity was Quorum. His favorite thing to do in the cabin was playing board games. Luke Brawley's favorite activities were lacrosse and volleyball. His favorite evening activity also was Quorum. His favorite thing to do in the activity was jumping.



Hilton B
Cabin Report

Zach Bamberger, Andrew St. George and Dan Huycke are the campers in Hilton B. Our counselor, Andrew Clemence, and CIT, Alasdair Thornton, are also in Hilton B. They make everything happen. Andrew enjoys camp craft, lacrosse and archery. Andrew has Williams in Lacrosse. He also has his first three archery badges. Zach enjoys Volleyball, basketball, campcraft kayaking and canoeing. Dan enjoys Volleyball, Lacrosse and Art. Andrew Clemence teaches Mountain Biking. Alasdair teaches Volleyball. Andrew is looking forward to Cabin Parties and the Lacapodium Hunt. Andrew was looking forward to staying for seven weeks but didn't get to it. Zach is looking forward to getting his Junior Volleyball, Junior Campcraft, Junior Kayaking, Junior Canoeing and Senior Basketball.

PARTY

Pirates

PEACE

Cabin 1
Cabin Report

Connor Wilford

Hi I'm from Barrington, IL. My Favorite activities are archery and camp craft.

Nick Ray

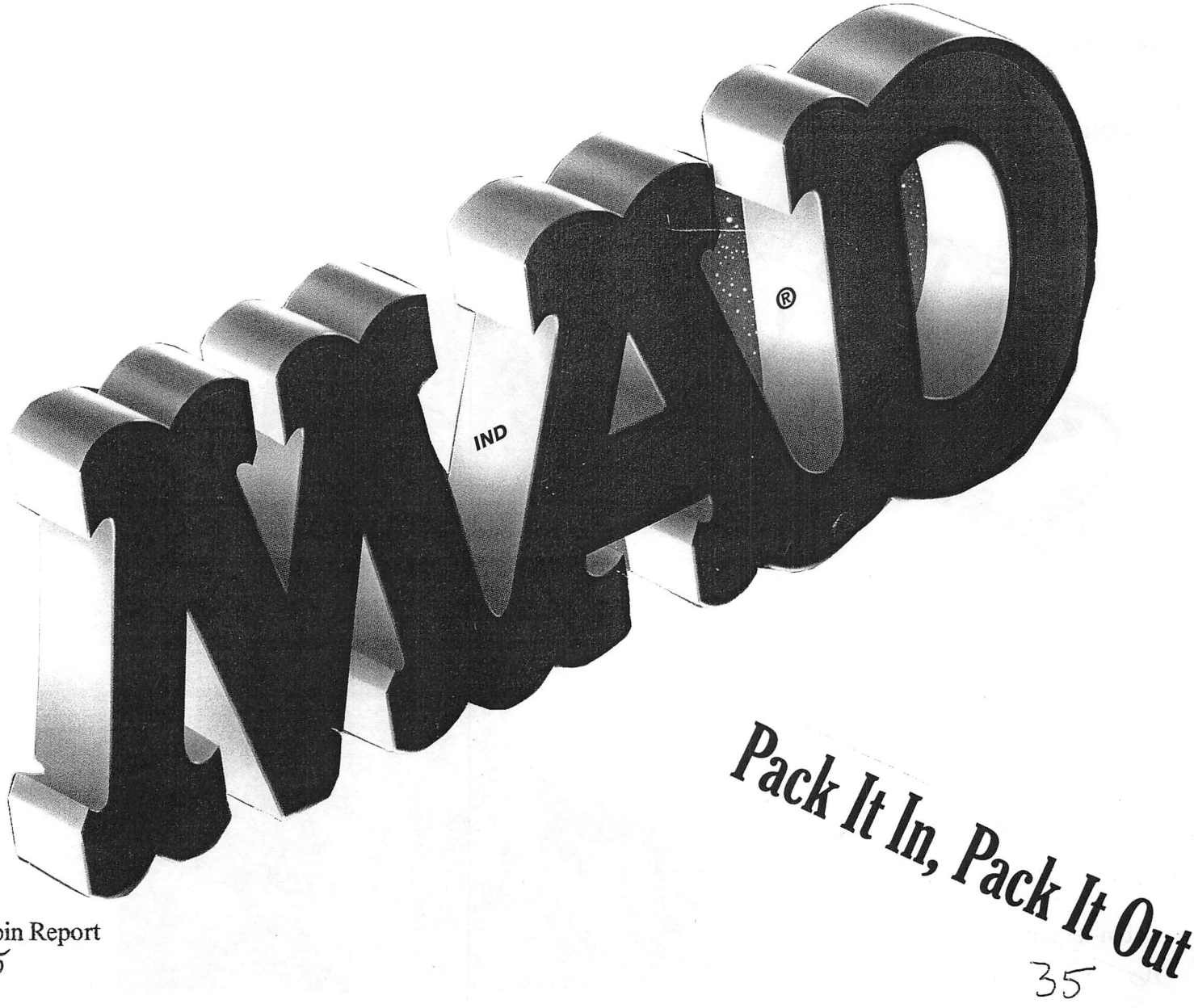
Hi I'm Nick Ray. I'm from Cumberland, ME and my favorite activities are Archery and Sailing.

Nicholas

I am from Barrington, IL and I like art and camp craft.

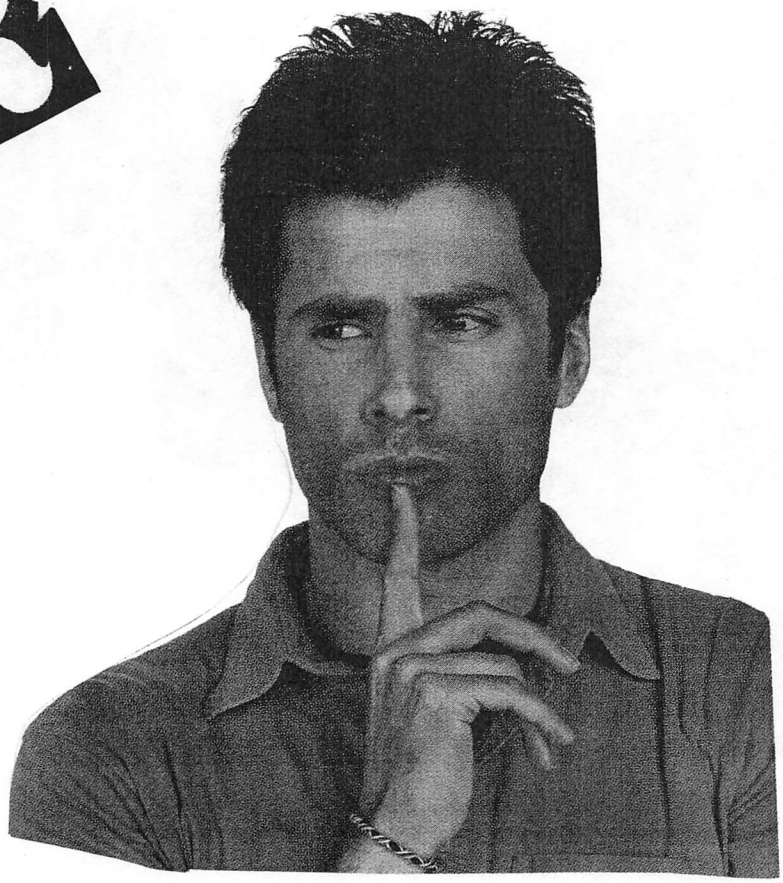
Colin McMahon (Counselor)

The campers in cabin one claim that Colin's favorite activity is lightsaber fighting.



Cabin 2
Cabin Report

This year in Cabin 2 there are three of us. One of us is Spaulding Goetze. His favorite activities are sailing, Campcraft, canoeing, nature, and windsurfing. Another cabin member was Jeremy Lifter. His favorite activities were nature, canoeing, volleyball, and archery. Another person is Luke Willoughby. His favorite activities are archery, swimming, volleyball, kayaking, tennis, and basketball. This is cabin 2 second session.



"Nose hair in a can is now a reality!"

Cabin 3
Cabin Report

In cabin three, our great cabin, we had three campers and a counselor. They were Zach Cohen, Matt Carson, Will Sheppard, and Nick Musciano. Zach's favorite activities were windsurfing, soccer, and archery. Matt's were Mt. Biking, library and archery. Wills were art, archery, and baseball. Nick, our fantastalistic counselor, taught baseball and basketball. In cabin 3 seconds session we had an amazing time.

Cabin 4
Cabin Report

Cabin 4 second session was a great place to spend 3 ½ weeks this summer. Ben Scriber and Sean O'Toole lead the group of three fine young gentlemen. Curtis Whiting, Aaron Duff, and Jimmy Scanlon gave the cabin life with their camaraderie and energy. Curtis loved basketball, campcraft, and petting fluffy little bunnies. Aaron liked being loud, lacrosse, sailing, and annoying his counselor. Jimmy enjoyed baseball, swimming, campcraft, and sleeping/not being annoying. While cabin 4 was weak in the beginning of camp at inspection, they picked it up near the end and got some honorable mentions. The boys loved their counselors, and a great session was had by all.

Me and My Bobblehead

"Finally: a way to harpoon, gut and cook dolphins, all in one handy portable unit!"

THE WILDCARD

Cabin 5
Cabin Report

Cabin 5 has a great second session. The people in cabin 5 were Alex McLaughlin, Matt Eisner, and Ryan Boothby. Ryan's favorite activities were sailing, tennis and Mountain Biking. Matt's favorite activities are Archery, Soccer, Camp Craft, and Nature. Alex's favorite activities are Mountain Biking, Camp Craft, Nature and Lacrosse. Our counselors were Sam and Sebby. Sebby taught soccer and canoeing. Sam liked teaching Camp Craft, Nature, and Sailing. Sam and Sebby were "da bomb". Ryan's favorite evening activities are quorum and orb. Matt's are orb and cross camp capture the flag. Alex's are field capture the flag and quorum. We had a lot of fun in this cabin and had a great second session!

Cabin 6
Cabin Report

Dig This

Chipmunk's Hole, that's our name
Texas Hold'em is our game.

2nd rest we like to play.
We do it every single day

Ryan and William are really nice,
They are nice as sugar and spice.

That was a pretty bad rhyme,
But I'm kinda short on time.

Gabe, Nate, and Steven were the kids,
Sailing, tennis, and basketball were the things they did.

Cabin 7
Cabin Report

Cabin 7 was utterly awesome to and awesomely awesome extent. First, our mind blowingly cool counselor was William Pearson Jenks III. Next, our CIT was Sir Walter Roland, esq. who happened to be so amazing that people in Ukraine felt his waver of brilliance washing over them now and then.

Our roster of campers was so divine, that highly intellectuals such as Chuck Norris or Samuel L. Jackson mistook the kids as the future presidents of the NASA, NATO, and Nabisco. It included John Breggia, also known as Henry Ford, Theo Lipsky, also known as Shakespeare, and Matt Ehrler, also known as Mohammed Ali.

WHAT WAS HE THINKING?

CABIN 8 FALLS INTO LAKE!

Waterford, ME – In a tragic, freak accident, a cabin at Birch Rock camp for boys fell into the waters of Lake McWain, taking the lives of 3 campers and a CIT. The campers were Bruce Manning, Griffin Kline and Matt Guttman, all of whom were eaten by the McWain Monster. The CIT, Chris McElroen, was saved and kidnapped by Waziyatah campers and is feared to be dead. The counselor, Carl Finnson, was not present in the cabin and is being charged with criminal negligence.

Eagle's Nest
Cabin Report

Εαγλε□σ Νεστ σεχονδ σεσσιον ωασ λεδ βψ ουρ ωονδερφυλ χουνχιλορσ Ματ τ Διγιτψ–Δοο–Δαη Δοωνσ ανδ Χηαρλιε Κνιγητσ. Τηε χαμπερσ ιν τηε Νεστ ωερε θοσιασ Ροδριγυεζ, θαψ Χαπασσο, θακε Χαηιλλ, Αδριχ Αλλεψ, θοηννψ Γοοδριχ η, Ρψαν Σχηεψερ, Χηαρλιε Χασπαρ, ανδ Τιμ Μψλναρσκι. Ιτ ωασ αν εξχελλεντ σ εσσιον ιν Εαγλε□σ. Ψααψ!*

APACHE ROOTS

*Translation:
Eagle' s Nest second session was led by our wonderful councilors Matt Digity-Doo-Dah Downs and Charlie Knights. The campers in the Nest were Josias Rodriguez, Jay Capasso, Jake Cahill, Adric Alley, Johnny Goodrich, Ryan Scheyer, Charlie Caspar, and Tim Mylnarski. It was an excellent session in Eagle' s. Yaay!

Buzzard's Roost
Cabin Report

Philosophers search for the meaning of life. Space-time theorists try to prove that string theory is true. Buzzard's Roost ties a rubber ball to the rafters and swings it back and forth. Simple things amuse simple people. What can I say?

Speaking of simple people, Mike Nordblom is one of our stellar cabin councilors. He hails from Groton, Mass, and told me to tell you that he's awesome. The other 1 and ¾ of our staff duo (he's tall), is Keith Arnold. He can make things from chain mail. And for the camper lineup, Cole Schlect hails from Morristown, N. J. He has a hemp cord, Ron Jon bumper stickers, and a sick woofer. Don't call him Ross. Coming to us from Melrose, Mass, is Kevin Hurley. He likes baseball, art, and playin' tha geetar. Harry Netzer enjoys pastrami, steak, bologna, salami, ham, roast beef, veal, venison, meatballs, campcraft, art, library, nature, and basically any passive activities. He's also the cabin's resident ladies man and is from Larchmont, NY. From Darien, Connecticut is Jake Cohen. He likes to sail, windsurf, perform interpretive dances, play tennis, and go to art. Ben Howard's hobbies include going to Campcraft, cow tipping, and setting fire to Barbies in front of a webcam and sending the files to Mattel attached to threatening emails. After being raised by baboons, he moved to Scarborough, Maine. Mike Espozito comes from New Canaan, CT. He likesthe movie The Goonies, Windsurfing, and Kayaking. Andrew Zeigler, although often mistaken for a rabid chimp, is in fact a young man who loves to arch, swim, and play soccer. He is from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Last and often least is the famous vampire hunter (don't ask) Travis Johnson from Tapanga, CA. He likes sailing, Campcraft, library, and soccer.

Besides a certain confidential incident involving an Alaskan cruise ship, a 29 foot alligator, and Nordy's lightsaber, all in all, Buzzards Roost second session was awesome.

Owl's Perch
Cabin Report

The people in Owl's Perch during the second session were Grant "My Chemical Romance" Carlson, Owen "I Love Andy Churchill" Knights, Andy "I Love Owen Knights" Churchill, Dave "Look at My Sweet Mohawk" Florence, Teddy "Let's Light Stuff on Fire" Brown, Pat "Baldie" Bowden, Nolan "I'm actually 15" Sullivan, and Julian "That's Whack" Rosario. Grant liked to sit in the cabin and play guitar, a skill at which he is quite adept, and he liked to go to art. Owen liked to hit up the field with lacrosse, baseball, and tennis. He was often the one found cracking the jokes that made the whole cabin laugh. He likes to sing songs that he makes up himself. Andy liked to join Grant at art, and also enjoyed tagging along at sailing. Dave liked to draw on his face with permanent markers and tend to the patch of grass that grew on his head. Teddy got his seamen badge (senior boating), one of the few to accomplish such a feat in a few years, and he also liked to go to bike-archery, where one shoots flaming arrows at live targets while riding across burning pits of toxic waste blindfolded. Pat Bowden liked to rub sunscreen onto his shaved head, and steal his brother's book "Winter's Heart", which, I have to admit, is a very good book. Nolan loved to push it to the extreme at mountain biking. He could always be found riding "skinnies" at the basketball court, or riding up and down the numerous hilly trails on the Birch Rock campus. While he was 15, and older than one of the kids in Pete's Palace, he probably was in Owl's Perch due to the fact that he is about four foot six. Besides that demeaning factor, he's a pretty sweet kid. Julian liked to spend lots of his time sucking up to senior campers, since he was in Pete's Palace first session, and couldn't handle the bump down in status. He actually was pretty cool most of the time. Julian liked mountain biking and basketball, and windsurfing. One could say that Owl's Perch this session was a love-hate fest. Well, actually, just a love fest, because, let's get serious, we all love each other at Birch Rock.

Pete's Palace
Cabin Report

This session Pete' s Palace was pretty much the chillest cabin around. There were 8 men comprising the cabin, all of whom contributed to the legendary reputation of the senior campers. Nick "Black-Eyed-Pea" Martin was a veteran seven-weeker from Cape Elizabeth, ME. His favorite activities were sailing, leading trips and repeating jokes said merely seconds earlier. Nick had the illustrious distinction of being the first whale of the year, a title he made sure the rest of cabin mates did not forget. Ed "You' d Better Run Charles" Cohen was the other seven-weeker of the group, coming from Ridgewood, New Jersey. Ed had a plethora of hobbies, including art, campcraft, whittling sporks and enjoying things that everyone else hated. Ed was the life of the cabin, and would go about sitting in the rafters saying ridiculous phrases in his many voices until the wee hours of the morning. Horse tranquilizers were usually needed. Brady "Do you stink at anything?" Caspar came from some generic town in Massachusetts. His lack of physical dexterity was quite disappointing, and he more or less stunk at anything involving athleticism. His favorite activities were library, being in the fetal position and whining. Surprisingly, he did place second in the triathlon, got his Skipper and his advanced campcraft badge, and swam his wale, but officials suspect large sums of money were involved. Jack "I Swear to God it' s Sugarloaf" Coster slums it in Falmouth during the off season along with half of the Birch Rock population. Jack enjoyed getting rained on, pondering the perfect murder and tennis (especially with females). Jack may or may not have swum a whale (thanks to a certain waterfront instructor resembling tennis great, Roger Federer), though he did win the strut contest at the price of his dignity. Dylan "What' s a 14 year old doing in Pete' s Palace" Laycox may have lived in the same generic Massachusetts town as Brady, but no one knows. He enjoyed mountain biking, video iPods and baked goods. Dylan had the illustrious distinction of being last in the triathlon, a title he made sure the rest of the cabin forgot. Tim "Carry On My Wayward Son" Myers thought he was from Falmouth, but must have lived in Kansas at one point. His favorite activities ranged from mixed doubles with girls camps, deep thoughts during kayaking, and cheering on some lame baseball team from Boston. Timothy placed third in the triathlon, but no one really remembers third place. Henry "I get my butt kicked at Step Falls" Schimd lived in this town that borders Falmouth but is much less sweet with terrible sports teams. He liked tennis and archery, and that' s pretty much it. Travis "Is my back red?" Ball lives in a suburb of Boston (a.k.a the rest of Massachusetts). He liked to shoot things with arrows and swim. Travis should probably get an award for having to share a bunk with the man-child known as Ed Cohen. One could always here music coming from Pete' s, whether it was Sean Paul, Grateful Dead, Clapton or the Robots soundtrack. They also won best cabin a few times, but that was it. Erik Joelsson pretended to be a mentor to the young, impressionable campers, but pretty much corrupted them. They forgive him.

A Collection Of Intellectual Ponderings on the Outdoor Adventures of the Camp During the Second Session

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Hilton A and B
Trip Report

We, Hilton A and B, went to the crooked river. We went swimming and the water was really cold. After drying off, we decided to pitch the tents. Hilton A had the big, big tent, and Hilton B had the small tent. After that, we made a big warm fire. Luckily, a lot of us had fire rights, so we could all help out. It was fun collecting lots of sticks. We then got ready to make dinner. The food was burgers. This was Hilton B's favorite part. Andrew's favorite part was playing orb and making the fire. Zack's favorite parts were getting leeches and screaming like a girl and playing orb. Dan's favorite part was seeing a leech on Zack and sleeping in the tent without anyone snoring. In the morning we had bagels and cream cheese. After eating breakfast, we fooled around and then it was time to go to the mountain. On the top of the mountain all of us got in a big picture. Them it was time for gourp. Everybody ate the M&M's while Eric Joelsson and the Weaz ate the other stuff. When we went down the mountain we saw these cool plants. When we got to the bottom we went to the rock. When we got back we saw some things on the canoes. We did not know what they were, and then Eric said Midnight Phantom. The End.

The Kids in the Hall

Cabin 1 and 2 Trip Report
Crooked River

On our Crooked River Trip we took canoes and paddles down the Crooked River. When we got to the campsite we had to pick up pinecones for our tents. Then we set up our tents and made a faire. After that we got in some canoes and paddles further down the river. We got stuck in a beaver dam. Then we got out of the canoes and floated in the current then swam against it. After that we canoed up the river, ate, and then went to bed. We woke up and canoed up river then drover home. A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

Cabin 3 and 4 Trip Report

???

Cabin 3 and 4 left one day in a van. Everyone thought they were on a trip, but in actuality, they were kidnapped by the Russian Mafia and sent them to Siberia, where they were forced to mine uranium with their bare hands. A bunch of campers grew extra heads. George Bush came in and single-handedly defeated every mafia member, with a little help from Condeleeza Rice. They then rescued the campers and after looking for weapons of mass destruction (with no success), they went back to camp. We're not sure if a good time was had by all.

Cabin 5 and 6 Trip Report

The Kitchen

Cabins 5 and 6 didn't go on a trip.

^^
. .
0

They worked in the kitchen.

. .
~

That's why our food was terrible for a few days.

\ /

^

They slept in the walk-in fridge.

The End

Cabin 7 and 8 Trip Report
Bald Face (heh heh...)

Cabin 7 and 8 went to Bald Face. By bald face, they mean Thomas Joyce's house. They hung out with the big man and played ultimate Frisbee. Bruce Manning was suffocated by Thomas' chest hair. PEACE OUT

Eagle's Nest 2nd Session
Trip Report

In the early parts of the second session, Eagle's Nest left for a three day, two-night trip across Flagstaff Lake. On the first day of the trip we had rough waves and harsh winds. The cabin didn't really want to go but we did it. On the later part of the day, we rafted together and sailed with the tarps three of four miles. On the second day we sailed about twice as far as on the first day. On the final stretch, the last day, we canoed three or four miles in order to cross Flagstaff Lake. During our trip we had unexpected stops on Hurricane Island and a nice beach. That was our trip.

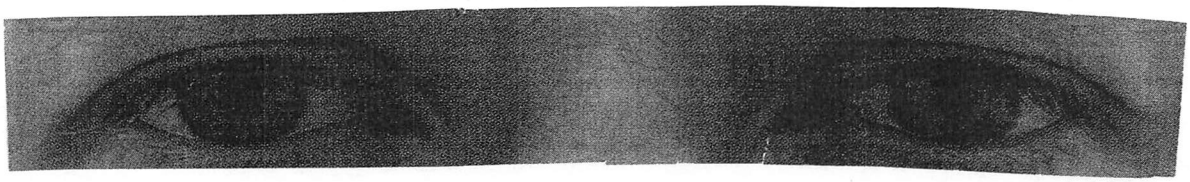
Buzzard's Roost Trip Report
Flagstaff Lake

At the start of 2nd session Buzzard' s Roost went on the first trip of the session to Flagstaff Lake. Flagstaff lake was around four hours away. We saw a Moostress (she-Moose) on the way to Brighten. We finally got to the lake and put the canoes in the water. Flagstaff is a man made lake. It was a river that was dammed up in the '50s. Some people say you can still see buildings underwater because a town was flooded. The first paddle of the trip was uneventful. The first campsite was great. It had a small beach and a little cliff. We put the left over beans and rice in the toilet. The second day we sailed a lot by rafting all the canoes together and using a tarp. The third day we went to the take out point and gave all of our equipment to Eagle' s Nest and then we left.

THE HEAT HAS MELTED ME INTO A LUMP OF PROTOPLASM.

Owl's Perch Trip Report
Some mountains somewhere

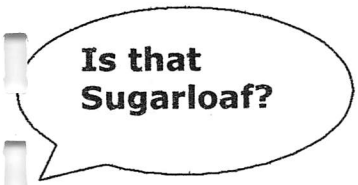
So like, Owl's Perch went on this totally rad trip to like, these mountains. Man, those mountains were crazy...all rocky and tan and stuff. So we like climbed mountains and it was the chillest! Oh yeah, there was this dude with a beard who chilled with us. His name started with, like, P? Yeah, so, this kid, Owen, like, got mauled by a bear. It was sweet. And the chillest!

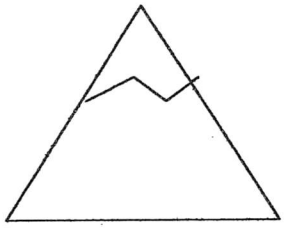


The Amazing Race

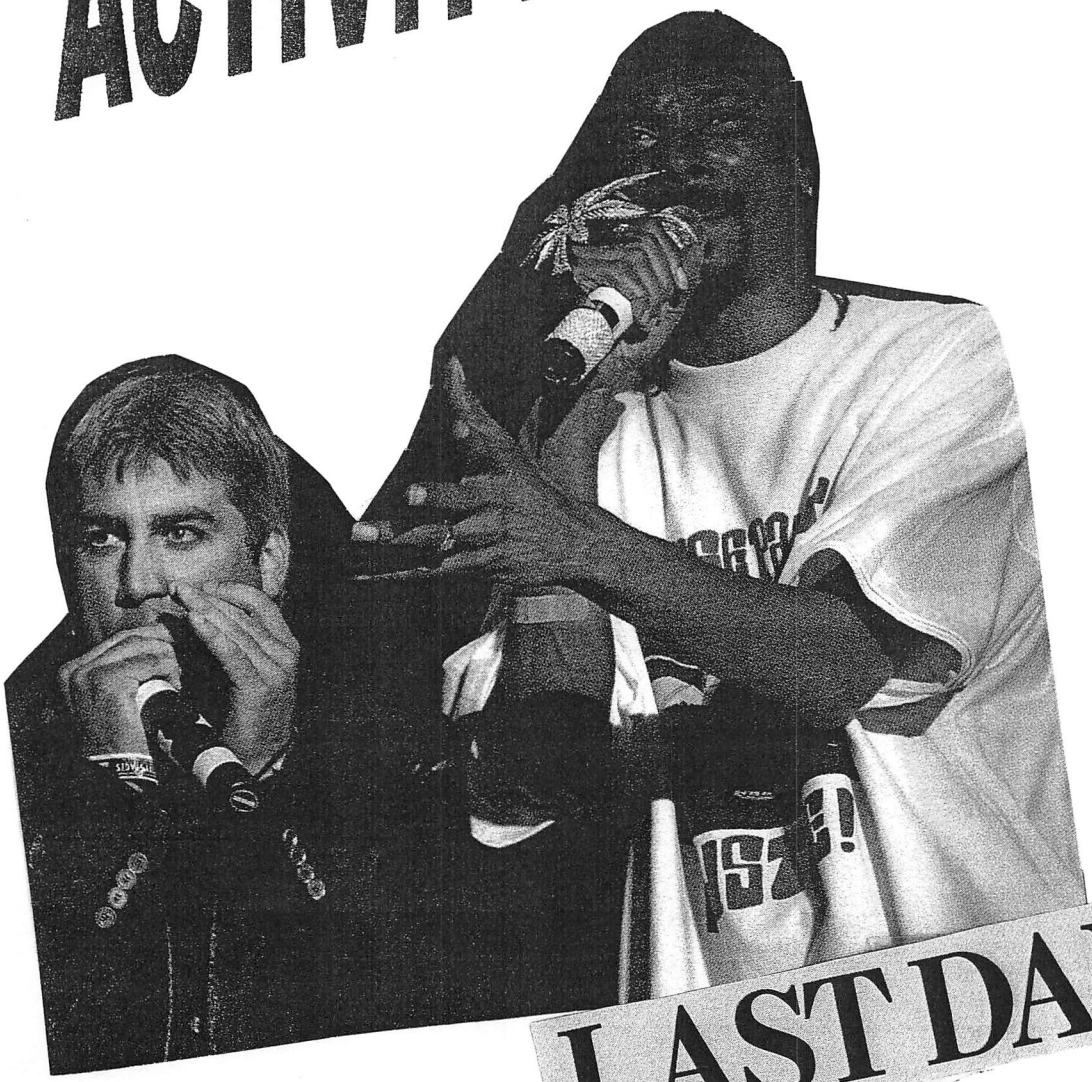
Pete's Palace Trip Report
Rangeley Lakes

On a brisk Monday morning, Pete's Palace left for the infamous Rangeley Lakes. Stepping up to the task of accompanying them were Paul Koepke and the canoe master himself, Mark Sutherland. The first day was a minimal paddle to Birch Island. On the way, Jack Coster swore he saw Sugarloaf on the horizon, but the rest of the group doubted his 10th place finish at the Maine State Geography Bee and ridiculed him for the rest of the trip. The worst offender happened to be the tree talk leader. At the island the men picked blueberries, swam and recited Dane Cook (a daily, if not hourly activity). Dinner was trail pizzas, followed by a hearty fine that aided a slew of coal burned utensils. The next day the men were up early and departed. To his dismay, Jack left his raincoat on the island, a move he would soon find costly. Once in Mooselookmaguntic, thunder and lightning rolled in, but a quick thinking of Paul led the group to the biggest house in sight. Weaz made himself the star of the trip by going to find the owner of the mansion while the rest huddled in the woods eating PB&J's. He came back with the news that they were in fact on Harrison Ford's nephew's land, and that they could use his boathouse. The men stayed there until the storm cleared, then pushed on to Student's Island. There, they ate pasta, roasted marshmallows and watched Ed carve a spork. Before bed they watched a magnificent lighting storm in the distance, oblivious to the fact it would eventually hit them in the middle of the night with the force of a hurricane. Unbenounced to them, lightning struck a tree a stone's throw from the tents. They survived and moved on to a 16-mile day including a portage, a girl's camp (too young though), Bohemian Rhapsody, and being Pirates of the Richardson's (complete with a theme song). We arrived at South Arm, and the boys attempted to put up tents on the beach while Paul, Weaz and Jack got a cultural experience at the South Arm Campground. That night the men ate Red Beans and Rice, got lectured by Ed on the best party chip and found Charleston chew. Just because they didn't get enough rain, more came during the night to complete the saturation of every tent. The last morning they woke up, packed up and headed to the pull out, where Don and Janice saved them. The minor injuries included Travis Ball's horrible sunburn and Ed's dementia (it may have already been contracted before hand). All and all it was epic.





"DUDE, WHERE'S MY ACTIVITY REPORT?"



LAST DANCE

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Archery 2006

The calming summer air, ahah!

The first whistle is blown. I grab my bow and slow my breathing.

There is nothing else, only myself and the bull's-eye.

Ahh the second whistle. I am ready!

I move through my form like a monkey moving from tree to tree

TWANG THWACK! Perfection

Three whistles. I am Joy

Archery was awesome again this year led by Mike Nordblom and Dan Letovosky with a huge hand from Peter Neilson. An amazing amount of badges were handed out, and it was great to have so many eager young students of the sport. Hopefully there will be some 1st badges going out next year to new students. Have a good off-season.

I WAS OPENING SO MANY CANS OF WHOOP-ASS THAT I DECIDED TO START BUYING BY THE CASE.

Let's Make a Deal

Are You Ready

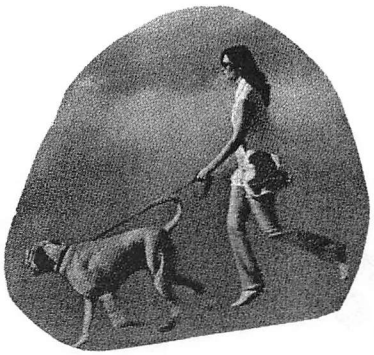
Art 2006

The Expression of the Soul

The creative juices really got flowing in art this year. Sock puppets, decorative masks, Popsicle-stick ships and many other weird creations were making leaps from people's minds into reality. Drawings ranged everywhere from completely wild abstract to painstakingly detailed sketch work. Everything from chessboards to smurfs was fashioned with Fimo. Overall I was extremely pleased with the enthusiasm everyone brought to art with him this year.

One thing that I was really happy with was the fact that not one but two advanced art badges were handed out this year. Both Theo Lipsky and Andy Churchill demonstrated incredible creativity and skill in creating some really cool things. The creation of Walter the Talking Chainsaw and the story of the Van Dyke Mansion were great standouts and showed everyone else that really anything was possible in art.

If I am proud of any one thing this year it is how much you all loved the art program. It was nothing short of a joy to bring it to the light and receive such a positive reaction. I can only hope that art will continue on this uphill path over the years until it has fully and truly reached its potential. The only obstacles in its path are the limits of one's own imagination.



-Colin McMahon &
Professor Sockopolis

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Baseball Activity Report

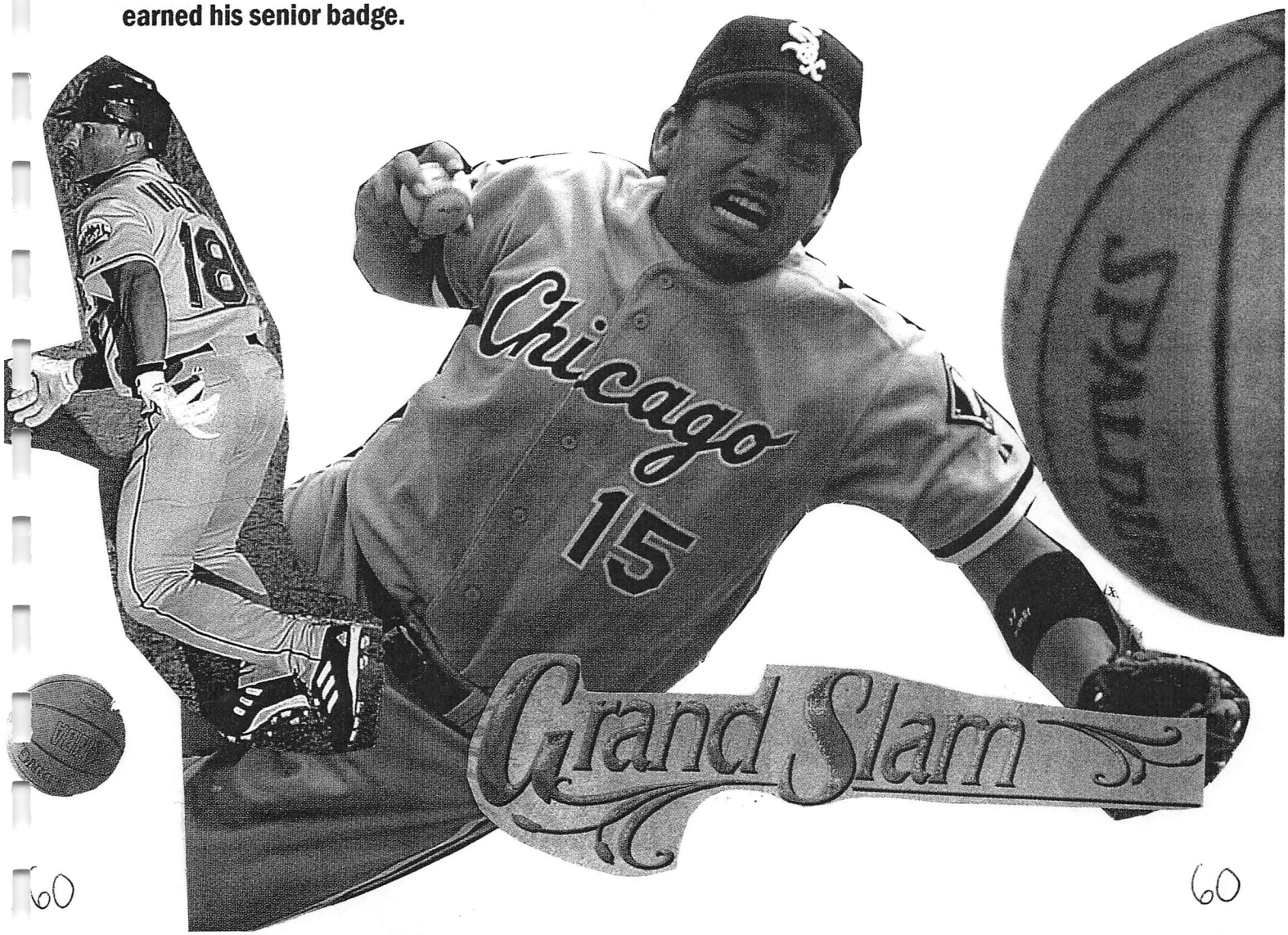
Matt Downs and Nick Musciano

This year at baseball, there was a lot of fun and a lot of badges earned. Campers showed that they were highly skilled in the baseball skills of hitting, fielding, base running, throwing, knowledge and strategy. Campers who earned junior baseball badges include: Matt Ehrler, Luke Brawley, Will Sheppard, Connor Wilford, Jimmy Scanlon, Aaron Duff, Tim Myers, Jake Cahill, Steven Velez, Matt Eisner, Julian Rosario, Josias Rodriguez, Alex McLaughlin, and Zach Cohen. Tim Mlynarski and Johnny Goodrich also earned their senior badges.

Basketball Activity Report

Matt Downs and Nick Musciano

This year at basketball, campers could be found dribbling, shooting, driving the lane, passing and most importantly, having fun. Many campers also earned a lot of badges. Those campers earning junior basketball badges include: Matt Ehrler, Luke Brawley, Will Sheppard, Jimmy Scanlon, Pat Bowden, Aaron Duff, Steven Velez, Matt Carson, Curtis Whiting, Julian Rosario, Josias Rodriguez, and Tim Mlynarski. Julian also earned his senior badge.



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Boating Activity Report

Due to maintenance issues, boating got off to a slow start this year. Although the boats required much repair, we managed to make due what we had and were rewarded with perfect weather. Boating had a great turnout and I am glad it went as well as it did. It was a great pleasure to have the help of Dave Weeks for a good portion of the season and we all learned a lot from his experience. We were very fortunate to have a number of long distance swims, which were a great learning experiences. Hopefully in future years, boating will take off and return from its hibernation. Many senior and advanced badges are in place for the coming years, and we're all looking foreword to them. We love the new boat, and a great time was had by all.

-Andrew Clemence

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The Tao of Campcraft

Without outdoors knowledge and skills one is a prisoner to technology, floating through life helpless and fearful for Nature. How many people can light a fire with just one match? Use a knife safely and respectfully? Make rope from plant fibers? Tie knots for any situation? Cook food without pots and pans? Tell time and direction from the from the Sun? Or make fire out of a few pieces of carved wood?

Not many.

But at Birch Rock there are many. And we are strong.
The Way of Campcraft saves one's soul, and guides them out of the darkness of ignorance and fear.

Inside each of us is a Buck Hard. Find it and lost no more, you will be.

- Ryno

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Canoeing 2006

So this crazy looking dude paddled over to me a few days ago and asked me to write a report about BRC Canoeing 2006. He had a cool beard and was friendly enough, so I agreed to do it. Anyways, canoeing is that sport where the boats are bigger than kayaks and smaller than sailboats. That's all I know. Oh, and they don't leave their boats in the water, so I can't sneak up at night and untie them. He he. Anyways, a couple of older guys can be found teaching this activity a lot; I think their names are Weasel (the furry dude), Sebby Weeks, Sean O'Toole and Andrew Bowden. They would always paddle across the middle of the lake and wake me up.

So they would come out in the lake and do a bunch of stuff this summer, like canoe rescues, playing with the air pocket, paddling to the stream or seal rock, decking, PFD tag, shore hugging, paddling under the pump line, sneaking up on Campcraft, and working on badge parts. The furry dude wanted me to say he enjoyed all his time on the lake, was sorry he couldn't be there more, and some other sentimental junk, but I can't remember because usually I'm sleeping when he comes and talks to me.

He also wanted to give special recognition to those of you who earned badges at canoeing this year. He gave me a big long list of guys who got Penobscot and stuff, but well... I forgot. Just be thankful I didn't wake up in a bad mood and eat your canoes! That's right, you wouldn't be able to handle that kind of pain!

Last he told me to say it's been a pleasure and he hopes to see you all next year. Personally I just hope you would all canoe along the shore so I can get some sleep here in the middle of the lake.

1/3 of your life

Grouchily Yours,
The McWain Monster

WARNING!!!

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KAYAK

(kī′ak)

The sport of kayaking embodies the very nature of aquatic awesomeness.

Yes, it's true – I looked it up myself in the dictionary. Down at the kayaking docks, and upon the turbulent face of McWain Pond, we incorrigible kayakers felt this definition run rampant through every fiber of our beings, as we celebrated several novel breakthroughs this year: the evolution of wave-hopping to the state of becoming an *almost* extreme sport unto itself, the beginning of successful diplomatic relations with the Wazi speedboat (to further the pursuit of wave-hopping – of course – through an exceedingly complicated system of bartering via the legal rights to certain parcels of McWain waterspace), the doubling of the existing Eddyline fleet through feats of piracy (not to mention athleticism – because commandeering requires that as well), the introduction of camper-lead seminars on the meaning of life, the universe, and everything else (spearheaded by the effervescent duo of Tim Myers and Owen Knights), and the veritable success in all fields made *without* the use of any kind of spray skirt (neoprene or otherwise).

As the sole kayaking instructor this year, it was my privileged position to be able to rip up the waves, four periods every day, with every activity group. In retrospect, this year was certainly an excellent year of fun in the sun... with much sunscreen and potable water. Looking ahead to the future, over the horizon of junior and senior badges presented – nay – better *earned* this year, I see a plethora of promising candidates for the acquisition of knowledge required to earn the advanced badge next year. With any amount of luck, next year will also be the year in which we, the kayakers of Birch Rock, will be able to take our knowledge beyond the scope of mighty McWain and experience the roaring rush of some real whitewater.

Of course, we shall have a spray skirt.
Perhaps even more than one.
Perhaps two.
Or three.
Oh dear... that does sound promising... doesn't it?

Mountain Biking Activity Report

This year, mountain biking was more or less EXTREME; from relaxing maintenance days on campus to intense off-campus rides. We were rewarded with exceptional weather this year, which was very fortunate. Despite the lack of rain, we still managed to find the deepest puddles EVER! To put it lightly, they came up to the handlebars.

Special trips this summer included a trip to Hawk Mountain during the first session. As usual, the view was well worth the long haul up the steep face. We ended up the fantastic year with a trip to Bradbury Mountain. The group did a extraordinary job and many mountain biking legends were born.

A major highlight of the year was the 3rd annual triathlon. It was a huge success and I would like to all who were involved. Great job to all the tri-athletes: especially Pat Bowden, Brady Caspar, and Tim Myers; the top three finishers.

I would also like to put out a special thanks to Peter Neilson, Ross "Da Boss" Schlecht, and Mike McKinnon for their help in making this epic year what it was. 2006 BRC Mountain Biking was where the cool kids were at on the BRC campus, and I can't wait for next summer.

-Andrew Clemence

65

Nature 2006

Nature. The mere mention of our amazingly intricate surroundings causes joy, wonder, and awe to well up inside of me. Questions about our world have been around since the dawn of human existence, and the quest to explain our place among the other elements of this world is one that has taken the collective efforts of millions. While there are questions that may never be answered about Mother Nature, there are very real steps that we can take to further our understanding of our place on Earth. Our part in answering these questions was the BRC Nature Program. Based out of the nature lodge formerly known as the fish hatchery, BRC naturalists embarked upon quests of exploration and understanding on a daily basis. For their nature badges, Birch Rockers demonstrate an appreciation for the natural world by observing and identifying plants and animals found throughout camp. We also strived to understand the struggle for survival that all living things take part in, through role-playing animals, both on land and in the water. Many a day was spent performing fieldwork and searching for interesting specimens to study, as well as plotting our next study from the comfortable yet natural setting of the nature lodge. I was honored to have so many qualified and eager campers come down to nature to learn and explore their surroundings this summer. By roaming our land, and asking questions about our settings, we are truly fulfilling Chief Brewster's vision of men who immerse themselves in their natural surroundings. It was truly an honor to work with all of you, and I hope you all continue to grow your love and awe of the natural world.

SPELLBINDING

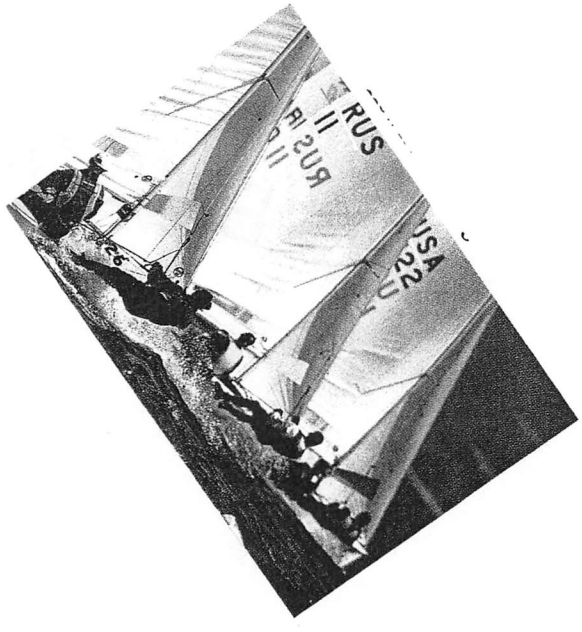
Late Bloomer

66

Sailing 2006

This year out on the expanse of Lake McWain many fine sailors showed their nautical prowess. The wind gods were not too kind to us first session; many a camper found themselves paddling in with their arms after being fooled to head out on a steady breeze, ending up in still waters within five minutes. Despite the uncooperative winds sailing enthusiasts earned a whole gam of badges. During the second session the wind gods lessened their cruel death hold on the wind and many delightful afternoons of hiking out aboard the Birch Rock fleet were had. Some very notable events this summer down on the sailing docks were the addition of a new laser christened "the new laser", sitting on seal rock with sailing boats in tow with David Kane, recovering the CFJ from an excellently performed turtle by Jake Cohen, and taking a sledge hammer to the sunfish dagger board that had been beautifully jammed by Mike "Nordy" Nordblom. I'd like to thank Mike for his enthusiastic approach to sailing and for the supplying the creativity that I sometimes lack. A thanks goes out to all those wonderful CITs that covered sailing when Nordy or I was not available. Till next summer may your heart be true and wind always fill your sails.

-Erik Joelsson



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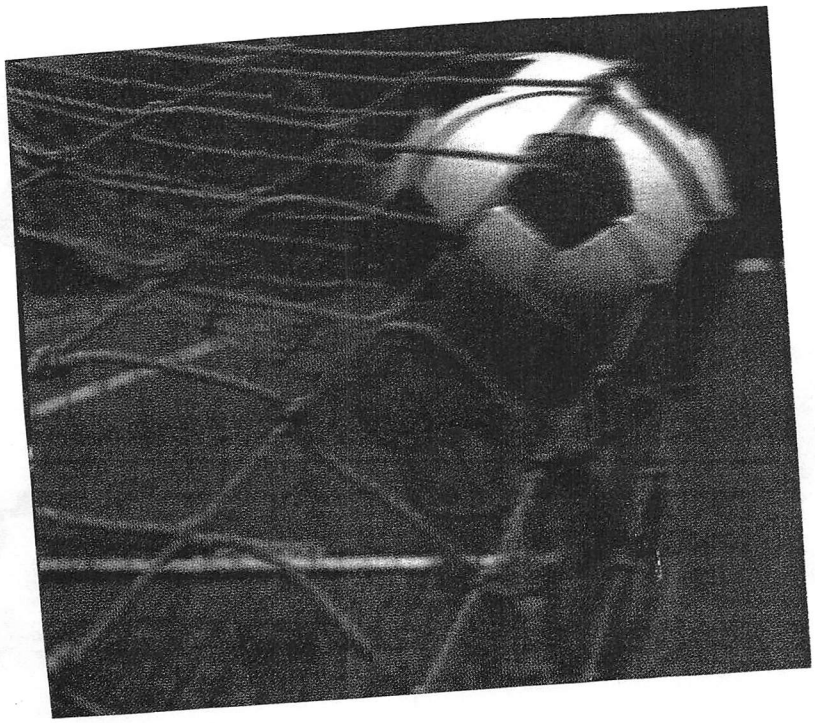
Soccer Activity Report

This year the fever of the World Cup was felt all the way from Germany to Birch Rock Camp in East Waterford Maine. It permeated throughout camp and helped contribute to a great summer upon the hill with soccer. We had our own future World Cup stars emerge from the ranks of campers. Some from Mexico as well as many future American stars. One memorable moment came on the end of the first session when the climax of the World Cup fever was felt. That day, Mateo Contomlen performed a magical feat, scoring 7 of his 8 team's goals and securing the win. In the second session, competition continued with a huge game against archrival, Winona. Although Birch Rock played valiantly, we lost 7-4; however we were gentleman to the end and accepted the loss graciously. Throughout the summer, there was a slew of junior badges earned as well as many senior badges passed out. There was also one advanced badge earned by Johnny Goodrich. All in all, soccer on the hill this summer was full of passion and desire, with a good time being had by all.



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Swimming 2006

Swim, swam, swum. Many swims were swum by many people who swam. Swimming was a very important part of swimming this year. One could even go as far as saying that swimming was our main focus. Swimming was thought about in many long meetings and thoroughly discussed in many scholarly discussions.

First and second session saw quite a few swims. Ducks, Loons, and Seals were about to steal the catwalks and make them into an iceberg fortress to destroy the waterfront ant eventually they world. Luckily, the whales intervened and sang the rest into submission.

We would like to thank everyone who came to swimming. Well, everyone came down to swimming. It was by far the most popular activity. So we would like to thank everyone. We enjoyed teaching all of you to become better swimmers. We hope to see you next year. Keep swimming in the off-season!

69

TENNIS '06

After weeks of hard training and fun games, Birch Rock Tennis 2006 wrapped up another awesome year. To everyone who played: thanks for all the hard work. We had three instructors this year- Charlie Knights, Mark "The Weaz" Sutherland, and Nick Musciano. A special thanks also goes out to Sean O' Toole and Ryan McElroen, the tennis CITs. We handed out tons of badges and got to watch kids who had never played before learn the game and have an awesome time.

Something new we did this summer was to have an in-house tennis tournament. Twenty-odd guys signed up and played in the single-elimination event. Making the final four were Dave Florence, Jack Coster, Henry Schmid, and Tim Myers. At the press deadline, the winner was undeclared. Each of the mentioned players equaled their rivals in skill, and the winner will be the one who works the hardest and strives the hardest for it. Thanks again to everyone who came down, we' ll see you next year.

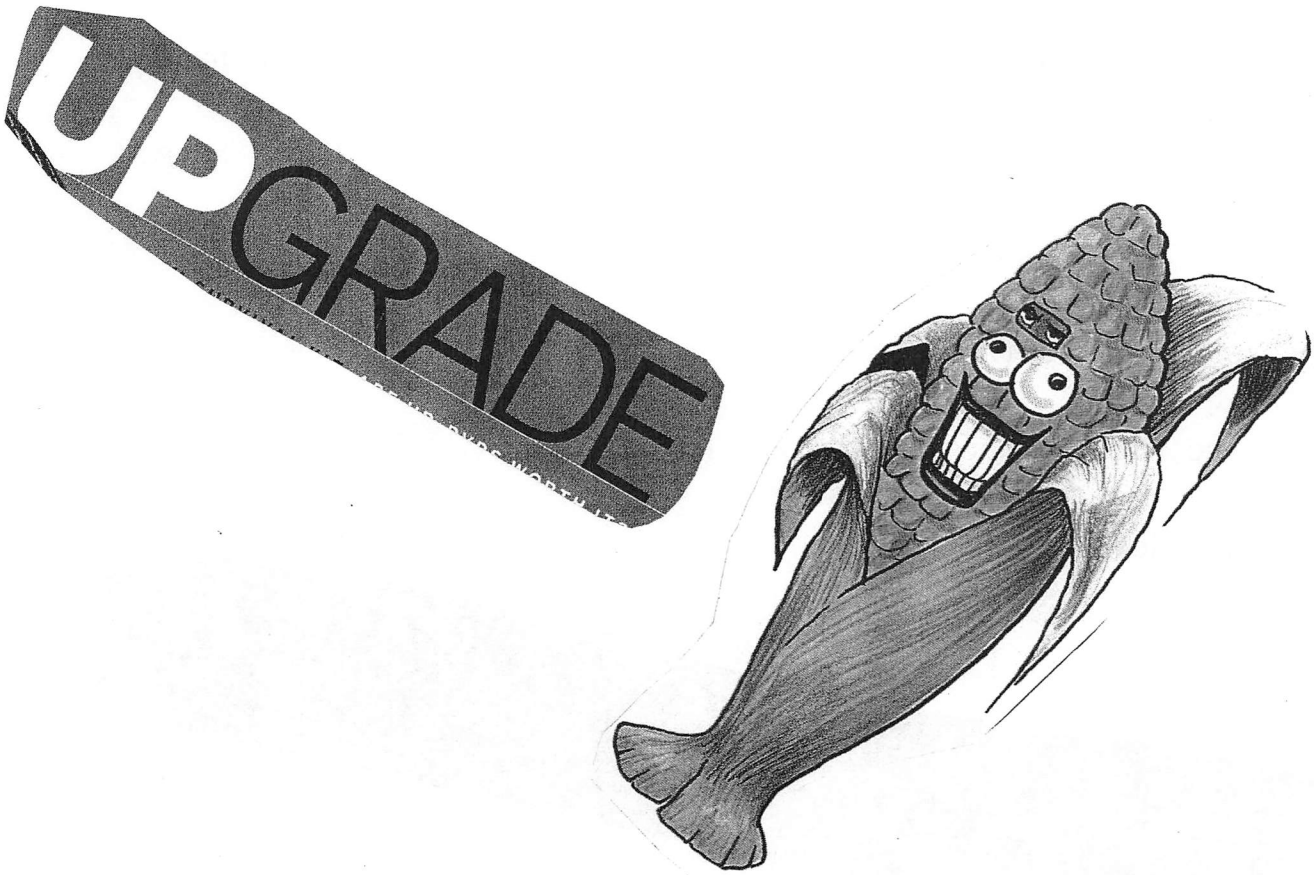
Volleyball Activity Report

Volleyball this year was totally extreme. Chicks digged it, campers played it, and we instructors got loud about it. We had throngs of people earn badges this year, including a voluptuous amount of otters and cougars, who were finally allowed to play after an entire session of only dreaming about this sport of kings.

And now 7 reasons why volleyball is awesome!

#7: Chicks dig volleyball
#6: A volleyball is an orb. Hence it is the same shape as our sun and the human cranium
#5: A volleyball is the only inanimate object to be considered the best supporting actor Oscar
#4: In no other sport can attractive women wear bikinis and be considered "ready to play"
#3: Playing volleyball gets you wicked tan
#2: In ancient times, kings would have their soldiers play volleyball before battle for good luck
#1: Chicks dig volleyball

-Alasdair Thornton & Mark "The Weaz" Sutherland



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Windsurfing

This third year of the wind surfing program had its ups and downs. After a rough first session, characterized by its unpredictable weather, we were blessed with a pretty constant breeze the second half. I was delighted to see all of last year's veterans back again to work on their senior badge or just to enjoy windsurfing and paddling boards around. It was a pleasure to have most of the first-year campers come down to the waterfront to try an activity that was completely new to them. On the whole, this was a rewarding summer for the windsurfing program and I hope that the next summer will prove to be even better.

May wind always fill your sails,

William "The French windsurfer" Rounds

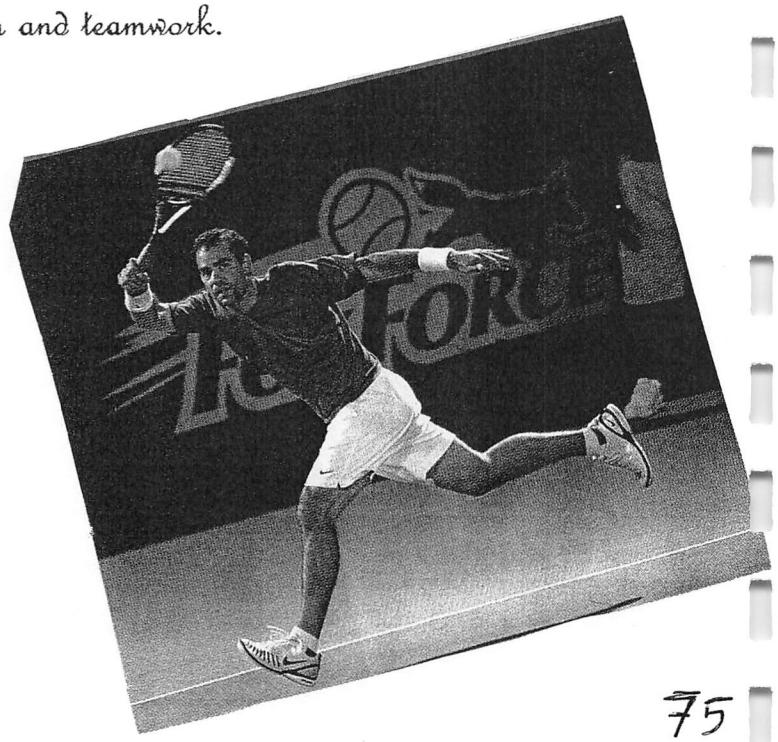
Unique Reports That Are Unable to be Categorized in the Previous Sections of This Literary Compilation

Arcadia Dance '06

The pressure had been building for weeks. Everyone in upper camp was constantly asking about when the Arcadia Dance would be. Finally, the day came! Campers took showers, ate a quick dinner, and hopped in the club wagons to head to the big dance. In the vans, we listened to pretty much every song that they played at the dance. It was a good pre-game, locker room preparation. When we arrived, the campers walked towards the main lodge, waiting for a chance to untuck their shirts. When we entered, we automatically became the life of the party, obviously. Staff members hooked up campers with various girls, unfortunately with no regards to their attractiveness'. During the dance, Jake Cohen came up with the idea of pretending to be a foreign exchange student, and, using a bizarre accent, he received many a dance with the marginally hot female (the occasional denial was to be expected). After the dance, we all headed back to the Rock, filling the vans with conversations about the various odd happenings that went down. It was definitely proven that Birch Rock still owns the dance floor! Fo' Shizle!

Arcadia Mixed Doubles

On a sunny Friday afternoon, 13 campers piled into a van and went off to Arcadia to show off their tennis skills to the very lucky females. Though swarmed by many eager girl campers, they maintained their gentlemanly image and resisted temptation. Once the boys found their female counterparts and engaged in awkward conversation, the competition was underway. All of the teams were tough, and the girls were quite impressive, especially Owen Knight's Amazonian partner. Dave Florence and Winston proved to be the best team, downing Jack Coster and Justine in a nail-biter then going on to take down team Tim Myers for the championship. Jack's team bested Johnny Goodrich and partner for 3rd place. The girls were sad to bid goodbye to the boys of Birch Rock Camp, and the boys were sad to leave the only girls they'd seen for weeks, but all in all, it was a good time that stressed the importance of athleticism and teamwork.



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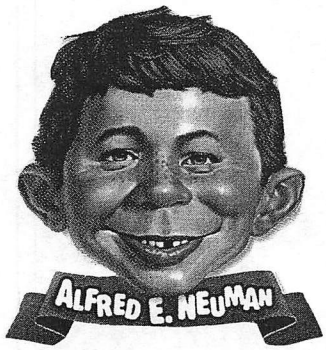
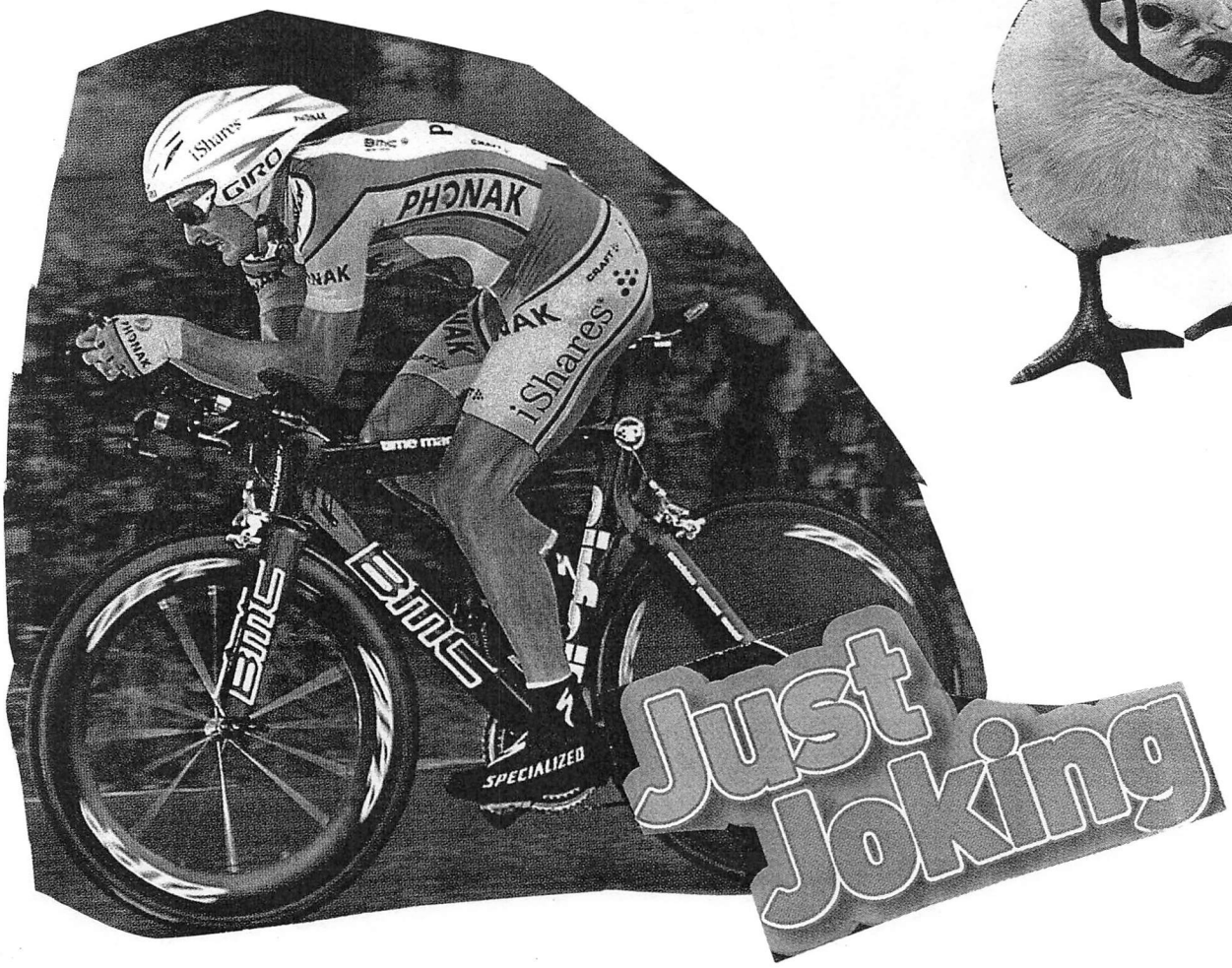
Beach Day

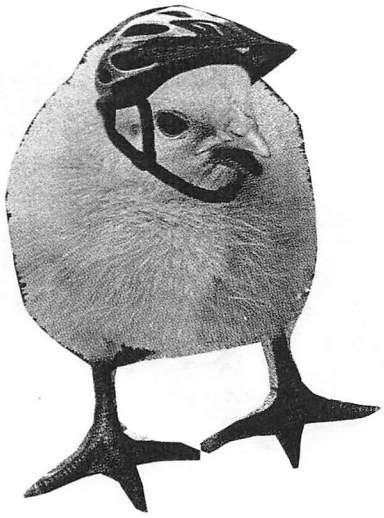
BEACH DAY WAS TOTALLY WICKED!!! All the kids had a great time. The water was ICE COOLD! IT WAS EXTREME! Some kids build a bridge across the tide pool. Alasdair and Weaz got a good game of volleyball going. Nordy and Brady made an awesome sandcastle, and then sent a barrage of rocks at it from a distance of 15 feet. The bus ride back was great because everyone slept. NEXT YEAR WILL BE EVEN MORE WICKED!



Bradbury Mountain
Trip Report

The day began with a nice bowl of oatmeal. When the bell rang, we loaded into the van. The ride there was long. Paul was nice enough to drive us and not get lost. The trails were fun, the lunch was remarkable, and it was awesome! The downhill was WICKED EXTREME!!! SO WAS ROSS!!!! EXTREME!!! Gabe, Dave, and Julian took some incredible falls! The campsite where we ate lunch was very scenic. The trails were really muddy. There were really fun bridges that were extremely skinny. A couple of people fell off into the mud. A rabid cheetah mauled Josias, and a good time was had by all.





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Fishing Derby '06

The Year of the Elusive Fish (again)

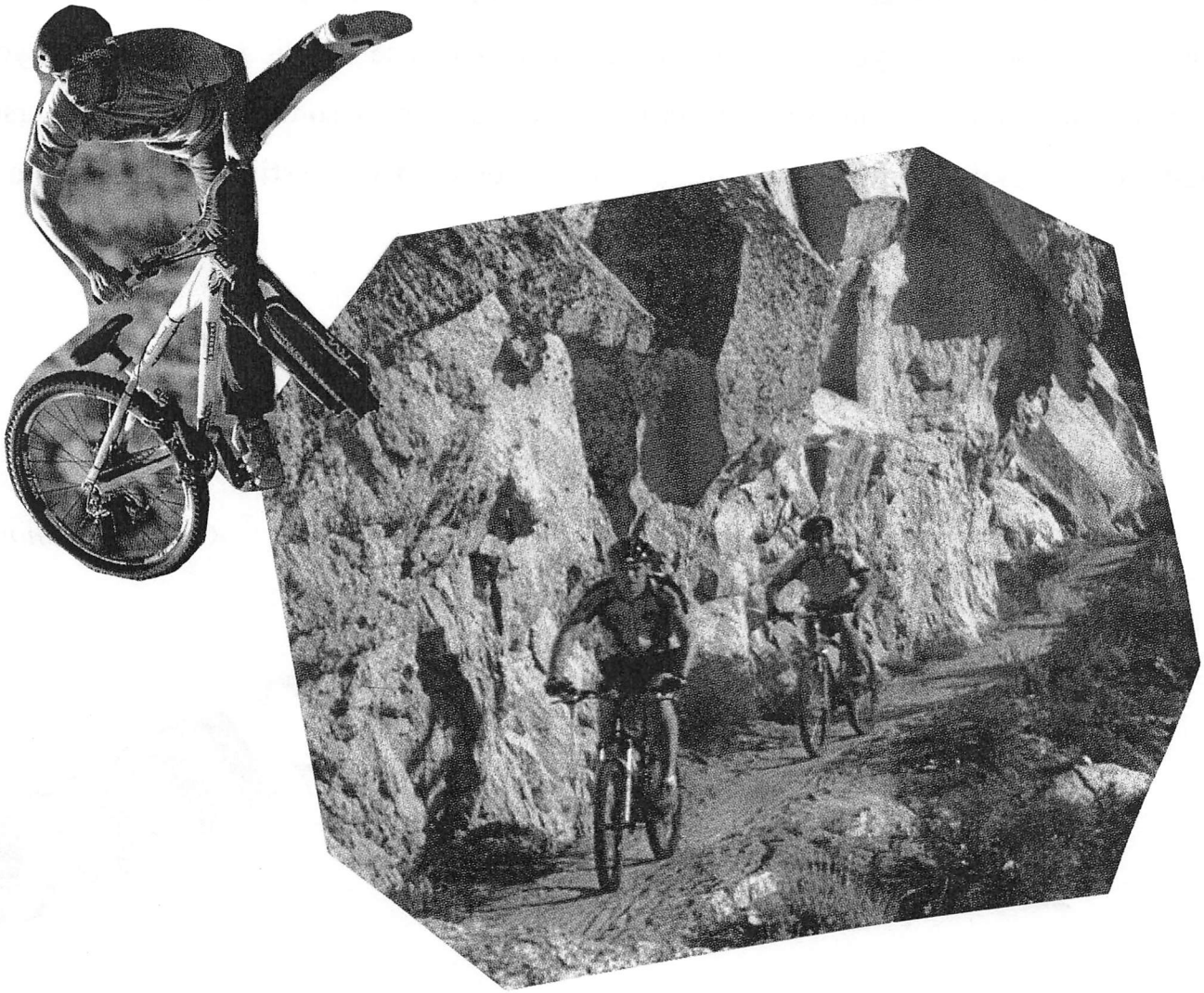
It truly was the year of the elusive fish down at the catwalks. There was nibble after nibble but never really any bites. I'm sad to say that there was no winner of the Derby this year, however, I would like to thank everyone for being such a good sport about it even though the excitement was a little lacking. Under the experienced eye of Don Miguel the campers set out in boats every night, spears in hand, to try to capture the deadly McWain Monster. The effort was amazing but futile, I am convinced that someone alerted the Monster beforehand and that's how he managed to escape.

Getting back to reality I seriously do want to thank all those who signed up and I'm sorry that I could not get everyone out who wanted to go. To those that did go out: I hoped you enjoyed the pleasant evenings and beautiful sunsets and I have some advice. Rest yourself, build up your skills, and get ready for next year, after all there are still a LOT of fish to catch.

-Colin McMahon

Hawk Mountain Biking
Trip Report

One day Andrew Clemence decided to have a mountain biking trip to Hawk Mountain. So, we got our bikes, road over to the mountain and biked up. It was EXTREME!!!!! LIKE ROSS THE BOSS!!!! EXTREME!!!!!! The view at the top was amazing. You could see Shawnee Peak. And the downhill? Well it was totally awesome! Everyone survived the trip and a good time was had by all.



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Turnover Trip 2006

The Turnover Trip was a chance for the 7-weekers to get off campus while all the first session guys leave. It was amazingly awesome. We went to the Big Adventure in Bethel, and played intense Laser Tag. It was definitely the best activity we did, closely followed by Seabiscuit (the water slide). The kids frolicked in a candy-induced glory all day. The highlight was most certainly the Counselor/Camper Laser Tag game. It was extreme and intense, but 5,000 military-like shouts, and 80 bajillion laser tags later, the staff came out on top, by a tiny margin. Maybe next time boys...

YOU'RE THE WRITER, DIRECTOR, AND PRODUCER OF YOUR DREAMS.

On the Evolution of Birch Rock
A Treatise by Charles Darwin

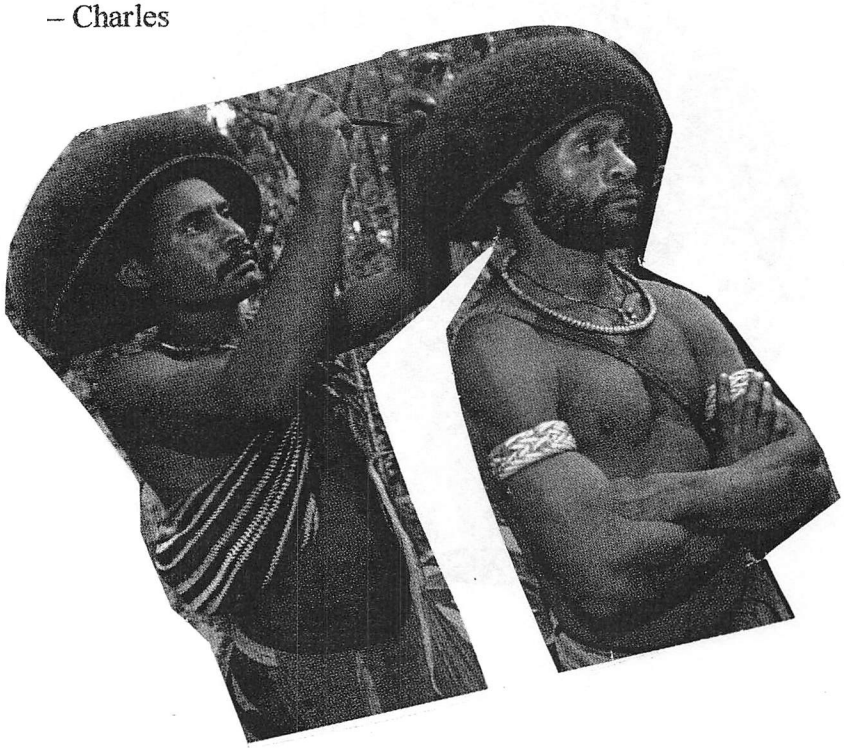
Despite the inherent difficulties lent to the pursuit of typing this treatise with but two large, cumbersome, and rather singular digits, I feel strongly enough in favor of it to push aside all shadow of doubt and devote myself fully to its excellence. Due to my overwhelmingly superior state of cognitive fruition, I feel it is incumbent upon myself to document the evolution of Birch Rock Camp over this, its eightieth summer, in a manner befitting myself, through what I have seen and witnessed, through my very own eyes.

Mind you, this was not an easy road to travel. Two roads diverged in a yellow wood in Maine, and I, I took the excessively, bloody difficult one. Don't be fooled now, for although you might assume the appearance of a jovial, portly, and inflatable primate at certain mealtimes would constitute a portent for the continued safety and security of this fine establishment, my path has – quite to the contrary – been fraught with hidden dangers: from Emu bites to devilishly rigged (and clearly completely bloody unfair) Jenga games; from time travel adventures to whizzing orbs; from my battle to the death with Charlie de la Garza's unfortunate tag-a-long, La Chupacabra de Mexico, to my recovery from critical condition and subsequent abduction by the McWain frogmen (in conjunction with renowned Philippino terrorist cell Abu Sayyaf). Yet, through it all, through my periods of absence, through my periods of intense surveillance, through my time spent in critical condition, and especially through my period of time-traveling back to the future, I have witnessed nothing of any sort that would suggest a weakening of the Birch Rock spirit.

In fact, if anything, what I have witnessed may only be described scientifically as an *evolution* of the Birch Rock spirit to a higher plane of consciousness. All in all, this summer has provided me with an extremely cathartic experience, more so than even the Galapagos, and I feel fully refreshed and revitalized as I return to both my sovereign reign in Madagascar and her Majesty's Royal Academy of the Sciences… eighty seven years in the future (if you thought the eightieth was a blast, you'd better stick around for the hundred and sixtieth – you know I'll be there!). My best wishes to the entire community – beware of frogmen and Mexican goatsuckers!

Cheerio now.

– Charles



McWain Monster Report 2006

"A View From the Deep"

Dear Birch Rock,

I, the McWain Monster, had a wonderful summer striking fear into the hearts of the campers. Though I only got to eat the members of Cabin 8 during second session, I was quite tempted by all of you out on the waterfront during those beautiful, sunny days, but luckily for you, Carl Finnson was watching. His piercing stare and manly biceps struck fear into the deepest regions of my three hearts. Those windsurfers looked delicious – especially that French guy with the moustache. Many of you may think I'm purely evil, but I happen to care about your well being while in the water. You may not know, but I made sure the Frogmen of Lake McWain didn't kidnap the long distance swimmers. Yes, it was a tough job, but I'd hate to see all of you who swam your ducks get eaten so early on…I've got to wait until you've been fattened up by all those sloppy joes!

Anyway, I didn't eat as much as I would have liked to this summer, but I can't wait to see all of you next summer, hopefully a little meatier. Remember, waterfront activities are your friend (and don't use sunscreen – it tastes awful).

Sincerely,

Mr. McWain Monster

Swimming

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MP Report 2006

Ah, camp was so vulnerable this year. It was so easy pranking everyone that it was almost unsatisfying.

First Owl's Perch…it was a shame when I couldn't be there to see the look on Owen Knight's face when he awoke to A CANOE in the cabin! Hah! How rich, a canoe… Not one of my finer pranks, but amusing nonetheless.

Afterwards, I decided to target the young ones with my tomfoolery. Imagine how upset they were when they went to the washout at night and COULDN'T FIND THEIR TOOTHBRUSHES! MUAHAHA! Ingenious, I know. They must have been at a *floss* for words! Get it? Floss! I slay myself sometimes…

My *coup de grace* must have been when that fool, Douglas Miller went to ring the bell AND IT WASN'T THERE! Am I brilliant, or am I brilliant? Seeing the counselors use the kitchen bell and the megaphone was just classic… Even more wonderful was the finger pointing at the senior campers. Those idiots couldn't steal bandanas from that Adric kid. I love a good controversy.

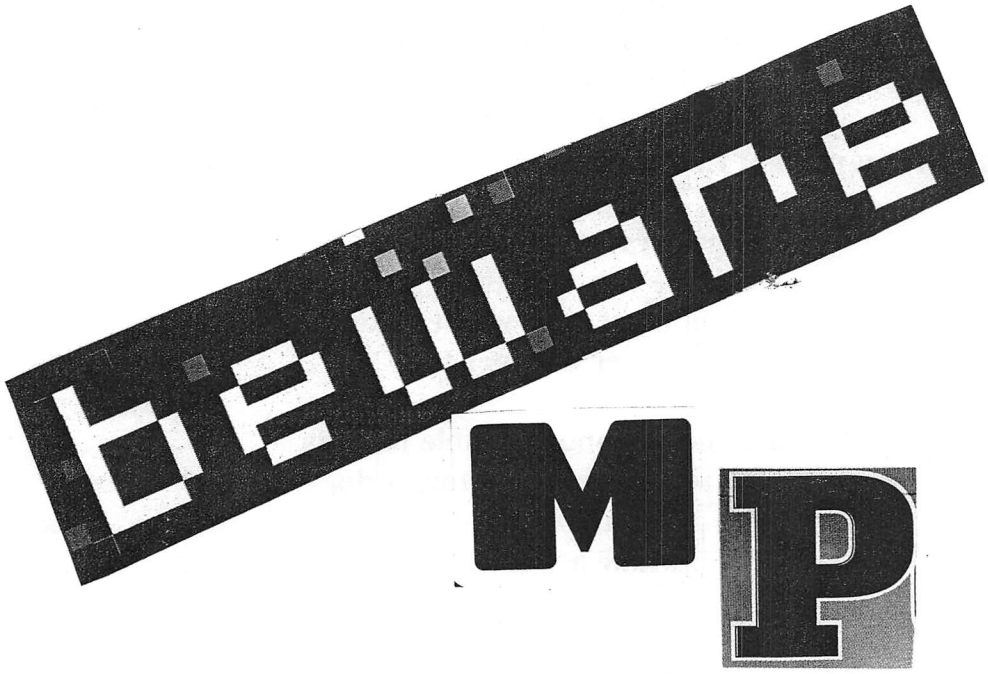
You thought those were the only pranks I pulled, didn't you. WELL YOU WERE WRONG! I switched the 2% milk with WHOLE MILK! YOU'VE ALL BEEN GETTING FATTER WITHOUT KNOWING IT! AHAHAHAHA! You poor fools.

Prepare yourselves for 2007. Especially you, Andrew St. George. I'll be planning the most brilliant pranks ever.

Watch your back and your milk,

The Midnight Phantom

MP



"Swim Your Whale"

Lyrics by Jack Coster
Performed by Pete's Palace
Choreography and nonsense by Ed Cohen

Lets get down to business,
If you swim your whale.
You must listen to me,
Or you won't prevail.

You're the lamest group I've ever had,
And you all will probably fail.
But I'll try,
To help you,
Swim Your Whale.

Can you swim, Tim Myers?
(Uh, I think I can)
Drop and Give me twenty.
Take it like a man!

You're getting shown up by Hiltonites,
And Brady Caspar's really pale.
By the end,
You will all,
Swim your whale.

(Swim your whale)
You must be agile like Andrew Bowden.
(Swim your whale)
You must be ready, you'll swim it soon.
(Swim your whale)
You'll be a hero at BRC,
It's more important than your duck or your seal or your loon!

Time is racing towards us,
'Till the session's through.
You could get your whale cake,
And Super Camper too!

If you complain about double periods,
Which is something Ed might do,
How could I,
Make a whale,
Out of you?

(Repeat chorus twice)

Camper Bequeaths

By the power vested in us at BRC, we bequeath…

To Will Alexander…Bilbo's Ring
To Adric Allie…A Round House
To Noah Aronson…Andy Churchill
To Travis Ball…Sunscreen
To Zach Bamberger…An RPG
To Alex Benjack…A Shadow
To Andrew Benjack…Ice Cream with Bones
To Jackson Berman…More time with Sam
To Ryan Boothby…DJ Lessons
To Pat Bowden…Iron Man Suit
To Andrew Bowden…His Lady in Red
To Luke Brawley…Suspenders
To John Breggia…Han Solo
To Will Brewster…Pink Floyd
To Teddy Brown…Cotton Stuffing
To Polo Burguete…Ralph Lauren
To Matt Burke…A Mad photo shoot
To Peter Burke…Pointy Ears
To Jake Cahill…Catering Business
To Jay Capasso…Lactate Milk
To Grant Carlson…A Broom
To Carlos Carrera…Cheese
To Matt Carson…an AK-47
To Tom Carson…an M-16
To Charlie Caspar…A Right Foot
To Brady Caspar…X-men uniform
To Alex Chapin…Fireworks
To Andy Churchill…Space Boots
To Henry Cleaves…4-Square championship ring
To Nick Cogswell…Hill sprints
To Zach Cohen…Two tickets to paradise
To Ed Cohen…Two tickets to a Led Zeppelin Concert
To Jake Cohen…Two tickets to Ukraine
To Ben Cole…socks
To Jack Coster…A lift ticket
To Pelayo Couturier…Quatro guardo pelato
To Charlie De Le Garza…A fur coat and cane
To Sam Deeran…Cheerios
To Robert Donahue…Tissues
To Gabe Dreyer…A polo shirt
To Aaron Duff…Joe Dirt
To Matt Ehrler…a corporate sponsorship
To Matt Eisner…Crazy Eyed Joe

To Mike Esposito…A Homing beacon
To Jake Feinman…A puppy farm
To Augustine Ferreira…Jolt Soda
To Dave Florence… War paint
To Jamie Foley… Longhorns shirt
To Ben Foley… Something incredible
To Markus Foley… Plain salad
To Nate Geremia… A biohazard shirt
To Spaulding Goetze… Pin the tail on the cow
To Johnny Goodrich… A treadmill
To Henry Gunderson… A pitchfork
To Matt Guttman… A Bruins scholarship
To Nate Howard… Cabin 1
To Ben Howard… A nickname
To Kevin Hurley… An amp
To Chris Huston… A short declarative statement
To Dan Huycke… A light sneer
To Ned Jakubowski… A towel
To Travis Johnson… A spotlight
To David Kane… A safe
To Matt Kfoury… Kfive more summers
To Griffin Kline… A fishing pole
To Owen Knight… Megan
To Dylan Laycox… Tranquilizer
To Jeremy Lifter… A poker face
To Eli Lipsky… Shelves
To Theo Lipsky… History lessons
To Zach Lynn… Birdseed
To Bruce Manning… A heroic identity
To Daniel Marranzini… A denim tuxedo
To Nick Martin… Authority
To Ryan McElroen… A telephone
To Chris McElroen… A blinged out pill case
To Alex McLaughlin… A Neverland Ranch
To Trevor McLaughlin… A British comedy show
To Tim Mylnarski… Antibiotics
To John Musciano…Antlers above his fireplace
To Tim Myers…A Charleston Chew
To Peter Neilson…Earmuffs
To Harry Netzer…Steak. Juicy Steak.
To Sean O'Toole…Cabin 4
To Roman Ramos…Bell Bottoms
To Nick Ray…A Time Machine
To Tuck Richardson…Susie Derkins
To Chirs Rios…An early school vacation
To Nick Rios…A CIT shirt for Bianca
To Peter Robbins…32 Flavors
To Josias Rodriguez…Adrenaline
Walter Roland…A Role in Eurotrip

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To Julian Rosario…A Clue
To Jimmy Scanlon…Hershey Bars
To Ryan Scheyer…The Debate Team
To Will Schink…Bug Net
To JD Schink…Submarine
To Cole Schlecht…Birch Rock the Gathering
To Henry Schmid…Emotions
To Charlie Schueler…Hair Dye
To Freddy Schueler…Dog Tags
To Ben Semmes…Chicken Coop
To Will Shepard…Stanley Cup Champion
To Sam Sherman…More Giggles
To Kellen Smith…Pom-Poms
To Andy Southworth…A 5 minute conversation
To Andrew St. George…Scuba Tank
To Jackson Stevens…Daily Schedule
To Nolan Sullivan…Another badge
To Matt Sutton…Hiking Boots
To Alasdair Thornton…Tanning Bed
To Jonathan Tuffy…A blue blanket
To Steven Velez…A Hammock
To Robert-David Weeks…Jonas Mikolayunas
To Curtis Whiting…Players handbook
To Connor Wilford...3 Tiny Stones
To Luke Wiloughby…4 Periods of tennis
To Nathaniel Young…A Spitoon
To Andrew Ziegler…A Glasses case

87

Staff Bequeaths

By the power vested in us at BRC, we bequeath…

To Kieth Arnold… A day off in San Francisco
To Andrew Clemence… Presents
To Matt Clifford… Brother Sister Day
To Rich Deering… Two cups and a wax string
To Matt Downs… A cold day
To Carl Finnson… A ninja suit
To David Jenkins… A windbreaker
To Pearson Jenks… A feeding tube
To Erik Joelsson… A chair lift
To Charlie Knights… His own bed
To Paul Koepke… A map
To Dan Letovsky… A co-counselor
To Charlie McDonald… Fuzzy dice
To Ryan Masssey… A personal assistant
To Mike Mattson… Advanced Director badge
To Patrick McCarthy… Complete Idiots Guide to Dating
To Mike McKinnon… Hobart
To Colin McMahon… Strut Contest
To Annette Metcalf… A gift card to Olympia Sports
To Doug Miller… An alarm clock
To Don Munn… A maid service
To Nick Musciano… Rice cakes
To Mike Norblom… A southern disposition
To Deenie Page… Joyce
To Sam Rizzotto… Grilling tools
To Cathy Roland… A theme song
To William Rounds… A round rubber room
To Ross Schlecht… Beads
To Ben Schreiber… A key
To Felicia Starbird… Bionic knee
To Pam Stock… Another cord of wood
To Mark Sutherland… A promotion
To Joyce Sweatt… Master calendar
To Janice Walker… Deer whistles
To Sebby Weeks… A day of insolence
To Ruth Wilson… Elementary lined paper

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We remember so well…

Opening day… Rain… New kitchen help…Doug's the Mafia…No Nordy is the Mafia….No more Mafia…MAN-UP…4th of July…Parade…Glowsticks…Fireworks…Keep on truckin' Optimus…Campfire…Lumberjack and Hippies…Crocs…But ice cream has no bones…Time Travel…Honey Nut Cheerios…Swim Your Whale…Matt and Keith in the rafters…Pirates Day…Commandeering the raft…diving contest with PFDs…40 pounds of Cowtails…Charles Darwin… The Juggernaut… 13th Warrior…Batman Begins…The Sum of All Fears…Ice Age…Hercules…Last man standing Geronimo…Regicide… Failed Whirlpool… Is Carl driving again?… Matt Downs can't run and Carl can't swim… Sugarloaf…That's not a Charleston Chew… Turnover trip…2nd Session opening day trip…Where is Mount Tirem?… 80th Anniversary…Denaults Den… EGGS…Arcadia Dance… Rios the CIT?… Jake the exchange student?…Destiny… Mixed doubles…Soccer against Winona... Tennis Tourney…Bocce Tourney…Another sailboat?… Jack non-whale day… Wouldn't you like to be a pepper too?… The Midnight Phantom…Canoe in Owls…Toiletries in the grove…the bell in the lost and found…Owls Perch gets shaving cream… AM Wash house duty… Tree Talk…Trust falls…way to go Jeremey…Warm Fuzzies… Birchrock history…Don Miguel's anecdotes… Chinese Jelly… Don Munn makes an announcement… Upper Camp fire pit hangout… So much Whale cake… Root Beer Floats…Black Rasberry Ice Cream… Dave Weeks and Don Miguel Visit…Pink Staff shirts… Fishing Derby… Golf… Quack, Quack, Quack… Green is the tertiary color… Triple Seal… Triathlon… Beach Day…Banquet…Awards Ceremony…Chips in the fire…Goodbyes